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Champion
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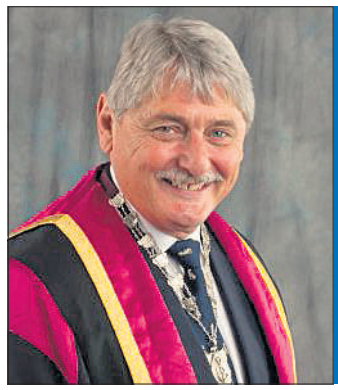

International award for pioneer surgeon

Town's Netto store to close next month

THE Netto store in Ormskirk is set to close next month - just 21 months after it opened.

The shock news follows the announcement earlier this week by Sainsbury's that it will close its chain of 16 budget stores across the UK.

The Ormskirk store, on the Hattersley Retail Centre, opened in November 2014 with the creation of 25 jobs.

But those jobs are now threatened as part of the 400 at risk after the supermarket giant revealed that it was ditching is deal with the Danish discount retailer after two years, leaving it with a £20million loss.

The decision to axe the stores comes in the wake of Sainsbury's move to take over Argos, the catalogue chain.

The 2014 venture with Sainsbury's marked the Danish retailer's second in the UK. Netto previously left Britain in 2010 when it sold its 200 stores to the rival supermarket giant Asda.

The stores, including the Ormskirk one, will continue to trade throughout July, closing in August.

Mike Coupe, chief executive of Sainsbury's said: "To be successful over the long-term Netto would need to grow at pace and scale, requiring significant investment and the rapid expansion of the store estate in a challenging property market.

"Consequently we have made the difficult decision not to pursue the opportunity further and instead focus on our core business and on the opportunities we will have following our proposed acquisition of Home Retail Group."

Happier times - the opening of Ormskirk's Netto store in November 2014

LANDLORD 'PUT LIVES AT RISK'

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

AN ORMSKIRK landlord who fire service officers accused of putting tenants at "serious" risk of death will be sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court on Tuesday, August 2 after pleading guilty to seven charges brought under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Timothy Reynolds, the landlord of the Malthouse Business Centre in Southport Road and the Buck I'th Vine Inn in Burscough Street, appeared before Ormskirk Magistrates Court last week after charges were brought by Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service following two separate inspections.

The first was the result of a fire alarm activation at Malthouse centre on July 31 last year where fire safety officers found occupants sleeping on the first floor of the former gymnasium.

Then on November 14, 2015 the Buck I'th Vine site was inspected by fire safety officers and private sector housing officers from West Lancs Council following a referral by a Lancashire wellbeing service.

They found that up to seven people were renting rooms at the disused public house for up to £100 a week, one of whom was sleeping on a mattress in a ground-floor lounge.

The inspection identified 'significant and serious contraventions of fire safety regulations.' These included inadequate fire protection, inadequate emergency lighting, combustibles and excessive travel distances on escape routes; no fire risk assessments having been carried out; a lack of suitable fire detectors; inadequate firefighting equipment provided and locked doors on exit routes.

These contraventions were considered so serious at both premises as to put those living there at the risk of death or serious injury in the event of fire.

But despite issued with a Prohibition Notice for both, preventing people from sleeping on the premises, investigations revealed that Reynold allowed continued occupation at the Malthouse.

Although the magistrates had the ability to award unlimited fines for offences

Continued inside

One of the first-floor rooms being used as a bedroom at the Malthouse Business Centre

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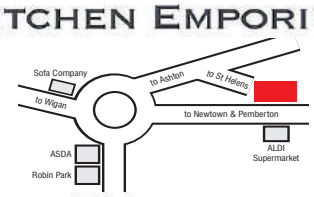

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Edge Hill's halls of residence have been praised in a National Students Housing Survey

Edge Hill halls of residence are tops in national survey

EDGE Hill University has topped a national list of the best halls of residence.

The Ormskirk campus was given the accolade in the National Student Housing Survey Awards 2016.

In addition to winning one of the four headline awards, the university was also a finalist in the categories of Best Value for Money and Best Environmental Management.

Independent market research agency Red Brick Research announced the winners at a ceremony in London last week.

Kate McAdam, Edge Hill's head of accommodation, said it is the first year the university has been entered into the category.

She said: "This award is a significant achievement that reflects the excellent work and passion of the Edge Hill accommodation team.

"It clearly demonstrates that the 2,091 students who call Edge Hill home value and recognise the professional service provision and residential experience they receive at the university.

"We hope to continue this award-winning standard with construction of additional student halls of residence throughout the next 12 months which will provide 168 new single-study en-suite bedrooms."

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Mims Goodger celebrates her 107th birthday with son Peter and daughter in law Yvonne at Brandreth Lodge Care Home in Parbold

Mims is still partying at 107!

A PARBOLD resident has enjoyed celebrating her 107th birthday with a party with her family!

When little Euphemia Dorothy Winifred Foster entered the world, King Edward VII had just opened the Victoria and Albert Museum and Louis Bleriot was still three weeks away from completing the first plane flight across the English Channel!

The spritely centenarian, known simply as Mims Goodger (her married name), who lives at Brandreth Lodge, in Stoney Lane was born in West Bengal to mining engineer, Frederick Boswell Foster and his wife, Marjorie.

She married John Carruthers Goodger, also a mining engineer and they had three children, Joan, John Michael (known as Michael) and Peter.

Now the great–grandmother, has celebrated her 107th birthday with a party attended by her family, including her son John and his wife Yvonne.

Borough tribute

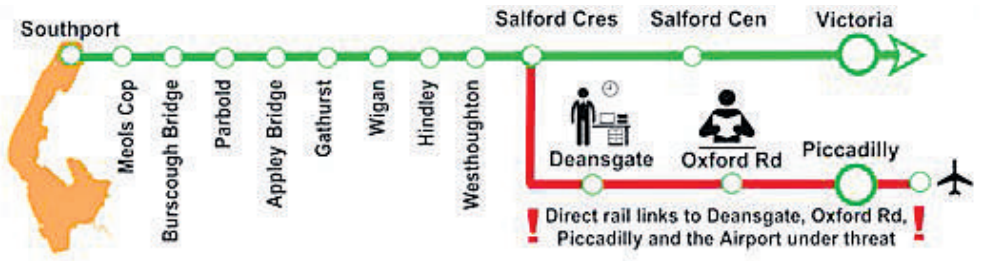
The mayor Coun Liz Savage places a wreath at Ormskirk War Memorial to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

WEST Lancs Council marked the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme with a short service of remembrance, starting at 11am at Ormskirk War Memorial in Coronation Park.

The mayor, Councillor Liz Savage laid a wreath to commemorate the sacrifice made by those who lost their lives in the battle.

As a further mark of respect the Clock Tower in Ormskirk and the Lightcube, on Exchange Island in Skelmersdale, will both be lit up red by the council between dusk until dawn from July 1 to November 18.

Off the rails!



MPs and campaigners abandon crunch talks on airport link accusing train bosses of 'a lack of care'

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save the rail link between Southport and Manchester Airport through West Lancashire, stormed out of a meeting with travel bosses accusing them of showing no consideration for the concerns of passengers.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper and her counterparts from Southport and Wigan met with Arriva Rail bosses on Friday (July 1) for a planned discussion to try and find an amicable solution for the revamped Northern line franchise, which currently plans to abandon the direct link between the resort and the airport with effect from December 2017.

The proposal to direct all services through Manchester Victoria - meaning trains on the West Lancashire line would no longer call at Deansgate, Oxford Road, Piccadilly and Manchester Airport - has sparked concerns among passengers who regularly travel to Manchester city centre for work, education, business and leisure.

Currently, Manchester-bound services alternate between Victoria and Piccadilly, but because rail chiefs want to run new services from other towns to the airport, the majority (more than 60%) of travellers from stations between Southport and Wigan face losing direct train links to Deansgate, Oxford Road and Piccadilly.

Campaign groups, along with MPs, had hoped that discussions with Arriva, the new franchise owner, would be successful in retaining the vital links.

However, the Champion can reveal that the crunch meeting on Friday was abandoned just moments after Arriva finished giving a presentation on their plans for the line with the campaigners furious at what they deemed to be a lack of consideration for commuters.

Southport MP John Pugh, who chaired the meeting, said it was clear that Arriva had taken a 'tough luck and live with it' approach' to the meeting, and decided to abandon the talks – a move supported by his fellow MPs and campaigners.

Mr Pugh told he Champion: "It soon became clear when Arriva starting making its pitch they were in effect saying 'tough, live with it'.

'Furious'

"Understandably, parliamentary colleagues with busy schedules, who'd set aside time specifically to work with rail chiefs to look for a solution to this problem on behalf of their constituents, were furious.

"It was telling that the chief executive of Arriva, Alex Hynes, who our constituents have been writing to, didn't attend the meeting"

Rosie Cooper who has been working to improve the quality of the service to Manchester, added: "The meeting was organised with the clear intention of seeking to negotiate a solution to the future of local train services to Manchester Piccadilly. It was quickly evident that Arriva had no such intentions.

"It is clear the communities of West Lancashire, who pay considerable sums of money to travel, have been failed by the Department for Transport by excluding this service from the tender document. Arriva have also failed them by consistently refusing to listen or act. This attitude doesn't bode well for the future of the franchise.

"Here we have further evidence of a rail investment strategy that leaves people in communities like West Lancashire marginalised, disconnected and disregarded."

A Northern spokesperson commented: "We are listening to the concerns of customers' whose journeys will be affected by these proposals. Since the franchise began on 1 April we have been reviewing all the timetable proposals and working to identify any potential options that would allow us to retain the Southport service direct to stations in South Manchester.

"In discussing this at Friday's meeting we were also honest about the parameters, laid out in the tender invitation documents, which all the bidders for the Northern franchise had to work to in developing the 2017 timetable for the North West.

"Taking these factors into account mean that all the options identified so far would have implications on other routes and require additional trains to deliver. Where this is the case we would need to work with industry partners before proposing any change.

"We have always said that we will look at all options and we look forward to the follow up meeting to discuss those already being considered and any new alternatives."

News Desk Tel 01704 392400

Crown court sentencing date for landlord accused of putting tenants' lives at risk

continued from Page 1

under the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, it was decided that due to the seriousness of the offences, the culpability of the responsible person and the putting of profit before safety that sentencing would be better carried out at Crown Court.

Reynolds was also prosecuted by West Lancs Council's private sector housing team and pleaded guilty to a charge of allowing occupation of the Buck I'th Vine as an unlicensed house of multuiple occupation (HMO). He was fined £1,600 (reduced by a third for his guilty plea) and ordered to pay costs of £1,552.50 and a victim surcharge of £120.

Tony Crook from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service said: "Timothy Reynolds was the responsible person and professional landlord for these premises, and as such has a duty to ensure that people who use his premises are provided with a safe environment.

"Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service will continue to focus our efforts and resources in providing advice and support to landlords that want it, but as with this case will adopt a robust enforcement approach to deal with those who compromise on safety particularly where they show such a blatant disregard to their tenants' safety."

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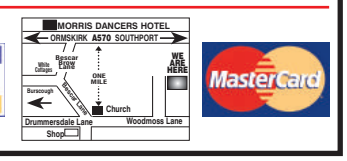

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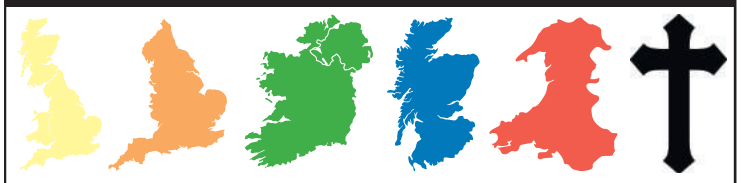

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Nifty footwork on show at second community dance festival

TALENTED performers from a West Lancs community group put their nifty footwork on public display at the Ormskirk Community Dance Festival in Coronation Park on Saturday, July 2.

The Divine Days Community Art Project, which aims to make the arts accessible to all including the most vulnerable in society, once again teamed up with West Lancs Borough Council to host the festival for the second time.

With bases in Burscough and Skelmersdale, the project was founded by Katie Whitehead, who runs therapeutic and educational programmes for individuals with additional needs, including creative dance and drama workshops.

Members of the project's dance group, the Divine Dancers, who rehearse at the Greenhill Community Hub in Old Skelmersdale, joined forces with the council to stage the free event.

As well as groups showcasing a variety of styles, from line-dancing to street dance, the festival featured children's rides and entertainment, dance and art workshops, donkey rides and community stalls.

And they were joined by young dancers from Burscough Lordsgate Township CE Primary School for their finale.

Pupils from Burscough Lordsgate Township CE Primary joined Divine Days Creative Arts for the finale of the dance festival in Coronation Park.

Katie Whitehead said: "This year's event was even bigger, showcasing even more talent from our community – including performances from dance schools across the region and a special collaboration with Song Birds West Lancs Community Choir and our very own Divine Dance.

"Our award-winning dancers, who all have additional needs, performed a number of times on the day."

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Drink-drive police officer crashed car into ditch

By our **Court Reporter**

AN off-duty police officer accused of drink-driving after his car was found in a ditch, claimed that he'd drank a glass of red wine and more than half a bottle of vodka following the accident to calm his nerves.

Mark Skinley, 48, from Ormskirk, who had his nine-year-old son in the car at the time, was found guilty after trial, however, and will now lose his job.

Prosecuting at Sefton Magistrates Court on July 1, Paula Grogan said that police attended the address of the Lancashire Constabulary officer at about 3.15pm on November 20 last year for a welfare visit shortly after finding his Citroen C4 in a ditch on Pool Hey Lane, Southport.

Officers knocked on the door and shouted through the letter box for about 15 minutes before he answered, she said, and when he did he appeared upset and distressed, and it was suspected that he had been drinking.

During cross examination Skinley claimed the reason he took so long to answer the door was that he was unaware of the officers being there, as he lives in a "very large house" and didn't hear them.

He had been returning home from MacDonald's at Kew just after 2pm with his son in the car when, following an incident with a cyclist, he ran into the ditch. He was given a lift by a driver who had witnessed the accident, he said, and after returning home he had a tumbler of red wine and between a half and two-thirds of a bottle of vodka to calm his nerves.

Miss Grogan pointed out that when first questioned by police and before producing breath test results of 113 micrograms of alcohol in 100 ml of breath (the legal limit being 35 mcg/100 ml), he said he'd had two glasses of red wine.

But during an interview, the morning after, he said he'd had one glass of red wine and three-quarters of a bottle of vodka. Then, after an expert report was sought to back-calculate what his breath test results would have been at the time of the accident, he said it was between a half to two-thirds of a bottle.

Skinley said that the report made him more focused on the amount he'd drank but Miss Grogan said: "I am going to suggest that the whole vodka story is something you made up. You have changed it to try and fit the figures with the readings.

Lancashire Police launched an appeal for information following the crash

"In reality, you had been drinking before driving. Also, it's a hell of a thing to admit that you took your son in the car when you had been drinking."

Counsel Steve Nikolich, who was privately hired, referred to the written report of the forensic scientist, which calculated that on the basis of him drinking between 500ml and 750ml of vodka and a tumbler of wine, he would have produced a breath test reading of between 128 and 182 mcg of alcohol/100 ml of breath. It meant, the report said, that at 2.05pm, the estimated time of the accident, Skinley would have produced a reading of 0 mcg/100 ml.

Mr Nikolich asked the court to also consider that no one had reported Mr Skinley for drink-driving from either MacDonald's or Sports Direct, which he had also visited.

District Judge Alan Jones queried how the calculations showed that Skinley could actually have had a negative alcohol reading but the defence said it was not able to speculate.

He also pointed out that three-quarters of a bottle of vodka was equivalent to "something like" 30 pub measures and that the time span he suggested to the court meant he had to have drank it all along with the tumbler of wine within 40 to 45 minutes.

That was an "incredible amount", he said, and finding him guilty of drink-driving, added: "That was not consistent with what he said at the custody suite, and such a person would tend to exaggerate the amount rather than minimise it."

Fining him £640 and ordering that he pay £664 in costs and victim surcharge, the judge banned him from driving for 22 months but gave him the option to reduce that by a quarter if he takes the drink-drive awareness course.

The court was told that Skinley has been a serving police officer, most recently in communications, for 21 years. Mr Nikolich said he had been informed by Skinley's colleagues that he will definitely lose his job but that the process takes between two to three months.

Rose Queen event raises £1,500 for village school

A GROUP of community-minded youngsters have helped to raise more than £1,500 for their village school with their annual Rose Queen crowning and summer fair.

The annual event at Downholland Haskayne Primary School had an Alice in Wonderland theme this year and attractions included stalls, games, competitions, a parade around the school's playing fields, bouncy castle, pony rides and song and dance performances by the pupils.

It also features an important school tradition spanning more than six decades – the crowning of the school Rose Queen.

One of the organisers, Lynsey Blane, whose son is a pupil, said: "Our lovely little village school's annual tradition has been going for over 60 years and we've never missed a year although sadly, it's a tradition lots of other schools have let slip.

"This year retiring Rose Queen Maggie Appleton was succeeded by Aaliyah Lucas, whose great-great grandad was at Haskayne School more than 100 years ago and whose descendants have attended ever since.

"It was a lovely, sunny day, which was fantastic, and we raised just over £1,500 for equipment for the school. Which is amazing considering there are only 45 pupils in the entire school!"

New Downholland Haskayne Primary School Rose Queen Aaliyah Lucas with attendants Aimee Gourdji, Keisha Lucas, Paige Carr and Toby Wainwright

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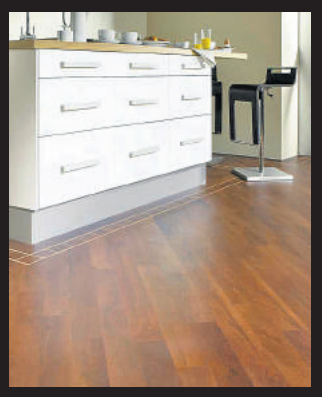

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International award for pioneering Ormskirk surgeon

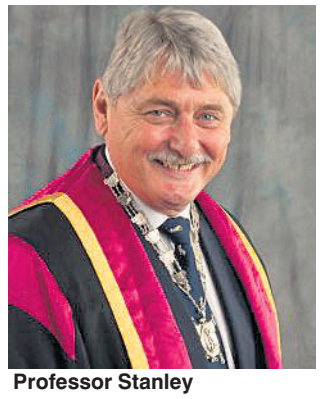
A SURGEON from Ormskirk has been awarded international recognition for more than 30 years of pioneering work.

Professor John Knowles Stanley has been awarded the World Pioneer of Hand Surgery by the International Federation of Hand Surgeons.

The 72-year-old father-of-two from Ruff Lane will be presented with the honour at a special ceremony in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 24.

His colleague, Irene Fox, said: "This honour acknowledges John's outstanding contribution to hand surgery in Great Britain and internationally. It is one of the highest international awards that can be granted to any individual hand surgeon globally."

Professor Stanley gained his Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees from Liverpool University and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1973, before completing his Master of Orthopaedics degree in 1975.



Professor Stanley

After completing a specialist training programme in North America, he was employed as a part-time orthopaedics surgeon at Ormskirk Hospital and a part-time hand surgeon at Wrightington Hospital near Wigan in 1979.

He continued to work at Wrightington Hospital and became the chief of service of the hand and upper limb unit and consultant hand and upper limb surgeon until 2009.

He still does part-time private work at Ormskirk Hospital.

Under his guidance, the Centre for Upper Limb Surgery was developed at Wrightington Hospital and has become one of the most respected units nationally and internationally. It develops research programmes, publishes papers, and has trained hand surgeons from Great Britain and all over the world, including Europe, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand.

Professor Stanley's wife, Gail, who he met as a student at Liverpool University, is a former High Sheriff of Lancashire and is currently the president of the County Scouts, chairperson of the West Lancs British Heart Foundation, and chairman of West Lancashire's Remuneration Panel.

She was awarded an MBE in 2004 for services to the county.

And the professor's two children have followed in their father's footsteps as his son is an orthopaedic surgeon, while his daughter is a GP.

Driver in fatal collision charged

A 21-YEAR-old man from Ormskirk has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving following a collision in Liverpool last year .

Daniel Rowson from Tower Hill was charged in connection with the incident on King Edward Street in Liverpool city centre on September 15, 2015 when his car was in a collision with 72-year-old Peter Douglas from Knowsley who died at the scene. Rowson has been bailed to appear at Liverpool Magistrates Court on Wednesday, August 24.

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New vicar rides into Burscough

VICAR Simon Glynn certainly likes to make an entrance when he takes up a new post - and he certainly did that when he arrived for a celebration event to welcome him to St John the Baptist Church in Burscough at The Wharf on a motorbike flanked by four outriders!

Although to be fair, that was a tad tame compared to his arrival at nearby Appley Bridge and Parbold seven years ago - by helicopter.

The 'Welcome At The Wharf' featured live music, fun and activities for members of the community of all ages with pupils from St John's and Lordsgate Township school showcasing their musical talent alongside local music school owner and performer Adam Christopher.

There were also a number of family-friendly activities including an artist, craft activities and games, plus stalls manned by local Brownie and Guide groups.

Excellent

The new vicar was also greeted at the church by Bishop of Liverpool, Right Reverend Paul Bayes and Deputy Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Neil Furey.

Reverend Glynn said: "I wanted an opportunity for Burscough to welcome me here and to encourage the Wharf, which I think is an excellent attraction in the village.

"The church needs to offer great things both in the church building and outside. God hasn't changed and we all need Him to get the best from our lives.

"The church needs to reconnect to the community of all ages. This is going to be our challenge over the next few years. I relish it!"

Burscough's new vicar at St John's, Rev Simon Glynn with Bishop of Liverpool, Rt Revd Paul Bayes along with West Lancs deputy mayor Councillor Neil Furey and deputy mayoress Julie Furey

£3,000 boost for Sporting Challenge

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A CHARITY for adults with learning disabilities has been given a £3,000 cash boost by a national foundation.

Sporting Challenge, based in Burscough, is made up of parents and carers who have been providing sporting activities for around 40 people with learning difficulties in West Lancashire for more than six years by organising evening and weekend activities.

These are a great way for service users to have fun, make friends and lead an active lifestyle while providing valuable respite for their parents or carers.

The charity was set up as it can be difficult for people with learning difficulties to access sport and exercise activities with barriers including parents or carers being unable to physically take them and stay with them at classes, or they can also experience physical difficulties with participating in mainstream sport and exercise classes.

Sporting Challenge provides special workers who can collect participants from where they live and provide much-needed support while they are having fun, before dropping them off at home.

The Boshier-Hinton Foundation has given the charity a donation of £3,000 to fund their sporting and social activities for the next year. The foundation aims to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities or learning difficulties, and their families in any part of the country, by making donations to charities which provide facilities and advocacy for children and adults with special educational or other needs.

Sporting Challenge trustee, Edward McCarthy, said: "I am delighted with the support we have received from the Boshier-Hinton Foundation. This will help fund our activities over the next year.

"On behalf of Sporting Challenge I would like to thank the Boshier-Hinton Foundation, their support will make a huge difference."

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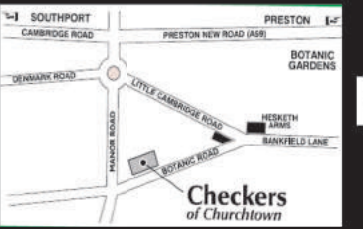

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£62,500 funding boost for community groups

Report by **Henry James**

SIX local groups are set to share a £62,500 windfall after learning that their bids to the Whitemoss Community Fund have been successful.

Competition for grants from the fund this year was particularly stiff with the highest number of requests received since it was launched in 2010 by Whitemoss Landfill Limited.

The biggest grant, £16,000, was awarded to Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside for a project to improve access and the river habitat at Tawd Valley Park.

Peter Heberlet from Groundwork said: "We are thrilled to be awarded this grant so that this much-needed work can take place along the River Tawd in Skelmersdale. It will give more people the chance to access this wonderful and valuable natural resource and help protect it.

"As part of River Douglas Catchment Partnership we developed the plans with partners, including West Lancashire Borough Council and the Environment Agency, and the work will greatly complement the other great work that the local 'Love My River' volunteers and partners are doing on the Tawd."

Another environmentally-themed scheme to be awarded funding is Lancashire Wildlife Trust's 'Places for People and Pollinators' project which was granted £15,000 to create a haven for bees within Beacon Country Park.

The Civic in Ormskirk has been awarded £14,600 for the installation of new toilets.

Burscough Community Farm

And another five-figure beneficiary is Trinity Methodist and United Reformed Church in Old Skelmersdale which has suffered water damage due to structural faults.

A £10,000 grant from the Whitemoss fund will enable them to undertake roof repairs, install a damp-proof course and make good the internal damage.

Burscough Community Farm, a recently-established local social enterprise growing organic produce to be purchased directly from the farm has been awarded £5,000 to improve the infrastructure for visitors to their site.

Neil Hickson from Burscough Community Farm said: "This money will be put to good use finishing off our barn, building a disabled access toilet plus several other essential infrastructure improvements."

Completing this year's awards is the £2,000 for 'The Hut on the Hill' at Parbold which is the headquarters for local Scouts and Guides and other community groups.

The money will go towards a mini make-over to improve the toilets, kitchen and main room and create a nicer environment for all users.

This latest round of awards takes the total handed out by the Whitemoss Community Fund to £335,000 which has been shared between 29 local projects.

Liz Payne, manager of the fund, said: "Competition for awards was higher than ever this year and we had some incredibly difficult decisions to make.

"This year's pot has been split between really diverse projects, from nature conservation schemes to toilets. But all the successful projects have one thing in common, that they will directly benefit the community, albeit in different ways."

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Church Heritage Open Day

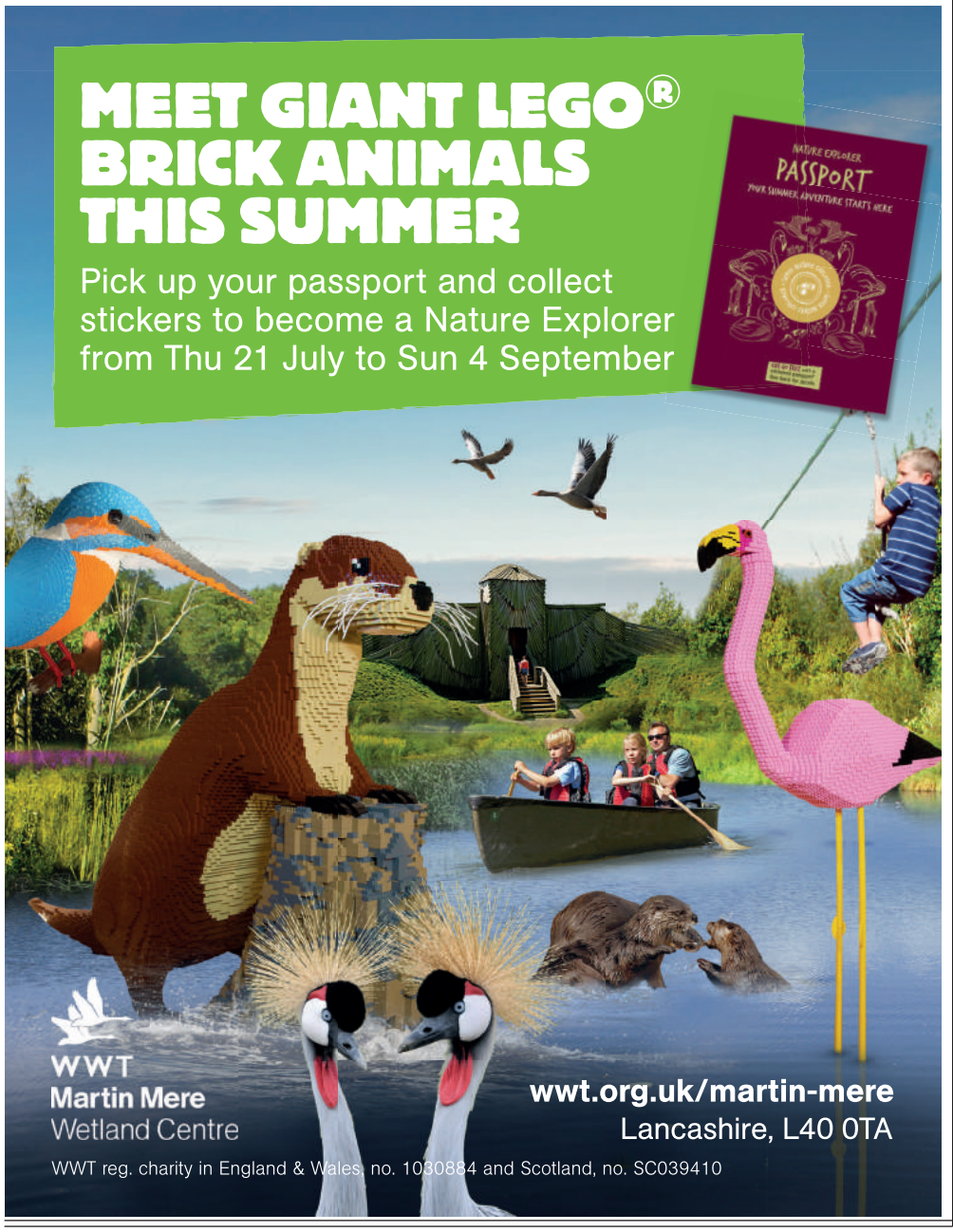
MEMBERS of a church committee are hosting a heritage-themed open day in Ormskirk on Saturday, July 9.

The St Anne's Catholic Church Heritage Open Day will run from 1 to 4pm. Admission is free and visitors will be able to view the beautiful 19th-century church and learn about its history. Refreshments will be on offer.

Visitors will have the choice of a conducted tour of the church or take the opportunity to use one of the specially written guides to explore at their leisure.

During the afternoon, Father Boniface Moran will be playing the organ and examples of the finely decorated church vestments will be on display. The church shop will be open and souvenirs of St Anne's will be available.

Across the car park in the Pastoral Centre, Chris Bentley of Ormskirk Bygone Times will have an exhibition of old photographs and postcards of Ormskirk and there will also be items and photographs relating to St Anne's on show.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Somme anniversary 'humbling' for niece of soldier who died there, aged 18

THE 100th anniversary this week of the start of one of the bloodiest battles in British history has seen commemorative services throughout the country.

by Danielle Thompson

But for 89-year-old Lillian Jones, who lives at Brookside Retirement Living in Aughton Street, Ormskirk, the visions and memories evoked by the events have proved particularly poignant - stirring thoughts of the uncle she never met.

Private Robert Atkinson, Lillian's mother's brother, was killed at the Battle of the Somme on August 18, 1916 just six weeks into the bloody conflict that was to rage for five months and saw more than one million men wounded or killed.

Private Atkinson, a member of the 4th Battalion, The King's Regiment, known as the Liverpool Pals, was just 18 when he paid the ultimate price weeks before his 19th birthday.

He was buried in the Caterpillar Valley Cemetery in Longuevel in France and his name was recorded on the Roll of Honour at Liverpool Town Hall.

Mum-of-two Lillian, who has lived in Ormskirk on and off since 1939, has visited Private Atkinson's grave twice and has read his diary, which she says recorded the "terrible" things that he endured while fighting in the war.

The last time she also visited the Historial de la Grande Guerre Chateau de Peronne, an international museum, and watched a short film of clips from the Battle of the Somme – and was amazed to spot her uncle in a clip of soldiers burying the fallen.

Great-grandmother Lillian said: "I couldn't believe it when I saw my uncle on the clip. It was an astonishing, shocking moment. I have read his diary a number of times and to see him, alive, on the clip, was absolutely amazing. I was born more than a decade after he died so to see him alive was truly humbling.

"What he and all of the others did for us was unbelievable. I have been watching lots of programmes on the centenary this week and thinking about what they experienced. It is hard to imagine what they must have gone through and the horrors they all must have endured.

"In one diary entry, my uncle wrote that he and a few others from his regiment made their way across no-man's land and entered a German officers' dugout, where four officers were apparently sitting perfectly still playing cards. He edged closer to them and realised that they had been gassed to death.

"We can't comprehend the horrors of what they must have seen and experienced.

"I know Robert had been sent back to the Royal Southern Hospital in Liverpool in May 1915, after possibly being poisoned, but chose to return to the front to get back to his pals. He wrote about it in his letters home and his diary.

"I am going to watch the film screening of the UNESCO listed public information film of the Battle of the Somme at The Civic on Thursday (July 7) and I hope it is the same film that I saw in Peronne and that I will be able to see my uncle once again."

Lillian Jones holding a photograph of her uncle Private Atkinson and his pals

Private Robert Atkinson (seated centre in dark uniform) with other members of the Liverpool Pals

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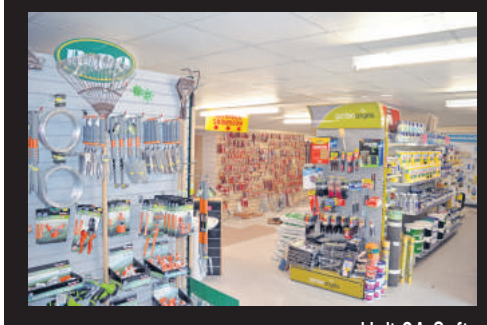

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Stakeholders urged to get involved in policing plan

Roadshows planned across county

Report by **Henry James**

MPS, council leaders, public sector partners and those working to reduce offending are being urged to get involved in helping to shape the next police and crime plan by Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw.

The new plan - which will shape policing and community safety activity over the next four years - is currently being developed and stakeholders are being invited to events across Lancashire - ahead of a county-wide public consultation on the proposed new plan.

Mr Grunshaw explained: "As part of my role I am required to develop a police and crime plan. The plan is a strategic document, but it is far more than a piece of paper. It sets out police and crime objectives for Lancashire, the financial resources that I will delegate to the chief constable, and the means by which I will hold the chief constable to account for the work of the force.

"The plan also sets out how I will support grass roots organisations to help reduce crime and disorder in local areas, the support services I will provide for victims of crime, and any grants I will make available to local organisations working to deliver the police and crime plan."

Lancashire's police and crime commissioner Clive Grunshaw

Three stakeholder meetings for council leaders, partner and voluntary organisations working to reduce crime and support victims across Lancashire will be held in July.

Following the sessions a draft plan will be developed and a public consultation will then be undertaken.

The commissioner added: "It is important that local experts such as those working in public services and with victims of crime and to prevent offending, really help us to develop the new plan looking at what the crime figures and emerging issues are telling us, as well as local issues relating to crime.

"Then when we have engaged at that level we can develop a plan to be consulted on by the public of Lancashire. This is the public's plan and it is how I will carry out my duty to be their voice in policing in Lancashire."

Stakeholder meetings will take place this month and organisations wanting to send a representative should contact the police and crime commissioner's office on 01772 533587 or email commissioner@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk for an invite.

The public consultation will include four roadshows across the county and an online survey and will take place in July and August. Details will be promoted via the commissioner's website and social media accounts.

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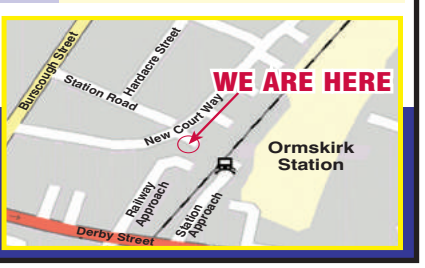

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Who will come to the aid of the poorest towns in the North?

BEFORE the vote was cast on the EU Referendum, George Osborne claimed that a Brexit vote will be a vote for the richest in our country as only they will be able to absorb any impact of a recession - never a truer word said by a Conservative minister.

During the next few months the pound will stabilise and the financial institutions (based in the South) should recover with the help of the Bank of England, but who will come to the aid of the poorest towns and cities in the North?

The savings made of £350 million per week by exiting the EU promised by some shifty disingenuous posh men in suits is already being reneged upon - an amount which was an inaccurate claim in the first place.

Their promises of controlling immigration will not help Northern towns like Skelmersdale which already has a low skill, low waged economy, it will only incite hatred as it already has done in parts of Britain.

The consequences of voting Brexit will certainly see changes in our communities as the divide in our nation becomes wider with the North becoming poorer still and the South East even richer.

PW, by email
Name and address supplied

Leave result is a warning to our politicians to listen to what voters want

IT comes as no surprise to me, that some politicians were surprised by the Leave result in the recent EU referendum.

Too many politicians can tell you what their corporate masters want, but forget what constituent means.

They even go as far as trying to kill off their party leader despite the party membership saying otherwise. The Leave result signified that we were sick of the Stalag EU mentality of Brussels, but also a warning to our politicians to listen to what voters want or they'll be kicked out as well.

This country has the opportunity for a fresh start and only people against democracy will try to stop it by ignoring the wishes of the voters.

For politicians surprised at the recent referendum results, I suggest you step down before being kicked out. The voters will see the disconnect between you and them.

I voted No in the original EEC referendum, and voted Leave in this latest one. I don't support any corporation to rule over us. Maybe that's why I'm not a member of any political party.

We need a clean sweep of these parties and a more open and honest type of politics.

You need to think your politician is a party sheep... until they can convince you otherwise.

This is a new start, a new chance - so don't blow it.

Ken Walters
Ormskirk

PICTURE of the week

A garden you can all enjoy

Margaret Abram in her garden at Wrights Farm in Moss Side Lane which is one of several in Mere Brow which will be open to visitors this Sunday as part of the Mere Magic Garden Trail.

Now in it's 11th year, the event also includes a plant fair and special display at Mere Brow Methodist Chapel to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

Picture by Martyn Snape.

Vitriol from the Remain supporters is so shameful

To those Remain campaigners who cannot accept democracy, I say 'shame on you.'

And shame on those Remainers who are calling for a second referendum and shame on those Remainers who are labelling Leave supporters 'racist.'

You are a national disgrace. And yet you dare to say it is the majority of people who voted to get out of Europe who are a disgrace.

When the Remainers have got down from the moral high ground they have stood on since the referendum they may wish to reflect on all the name calling and vitriol they have poured down on the millions of decent Leave voters who dared to have a different opinion to them.

This highly vocal group of Remain supporters seem to me to be of the opinion they somehow possess a higher level of intelligence than the Leave supporters they appear to despise so much judging by their rantings on social media and anywhere else they can find a platform.

I voted Leave and I had a democratic right to do so. That does not make me a racist or some idiot from a sink estate who can't put two words together.

Look at the facts you Remainers and accept defeat with a tad more decency than you have. Or do you think you are so elitist it is only your voice that should be heard?

Were it not for Project Fear, led by the now disgraced George Osborne, the Leave vote would have been even greater. So take pride those of you who voted to get out of the Euro Union - you have done your country the greatest service.

I.M.A Beleaver, by email
(Name and address supplied)

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Don't let iconic court building go to waste

THE iconic Magistrates and Family Court building on Derby Street, Ormskirk is such an attractive façade, that I can't believe it has just closed with no future plans.

Instead of automatically assuming it will become student accommodation, can we not find a really worthwhile project for it?

Obviously I don't know the condition of the building, but it won't improve if left empty.

How about a boutique hotel, or sheltered housing?

What about flats for young people leaving care, or even supervised accommodation for recovering alcoholics, or mental health patients?

Any more ideas from people who care about Ormskirk?

Kathy Protheroe, Ormskirk, by email

Tanhouse folk are being punished for something that isn't our fault

WITH regards to your article on the 312 Tanhouse bus service (Champion, June 29).

I have lived on Tanhouse since 1969. We have never had a decent bus service from Arriva.

At term time the buses are used to transport the children to school in the morning and collect them at night.

We have no service at all on Saturday or Sunday.

When I rang Arriva to enquire why our service was so bad around Tanhouse they explained it was because children threw bricks at the buses from the bridges.

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There was a long pause then they said: "Are you telling me there are no bridges around Tanhouse?"

I didn't need to answer, they had finally realised that they were wrong.

I informed them that it was in Digmoor that buses were being attacked but they now have more buses than ever.

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Call for clarification on 'rules' for fining parents over term-time absences

MP seeks explanation after THREE penalties are issued over one child's one holiday

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper is demanding an explanation from Lancashire County Council after what she described as the "farcical" situation which resulted in THREE separate adults being fined over one child's term-time holiday absence.

The West Lancs MP received a complaint from a constituent over what she claims "appears to be nothing more than a money-making racket" as one of the adults is not a parent and has no legal responsibility for the child.

Having taken her son out of school for a term-time holiday the child's mother accepted the £60 penalty charge for doing so.

Then the child's biological father was also fined £60 – even though he doesn't live with the family and isn't even resident in Lancashire. However, under the law he is deemed to have parental responsibility so again the child's mother paid the £60 fine.

Then a third £60 fine was issued to the mother's husband even though legally he has no parental responsibility. The father's partner though has not been fined.

Rosie Cooper said: "This situation, in which three adults are fined for one child being taken out of school, would seem to be farcical. It's no wonder people think these fines are nothing more than a money-making racket for councils. I will be raising this with Lancashire County Council and I've also written to education ministers over the use of fines, especially in light of the recent court decision.

"How can it be legal for three people to be fined, especially when one of those has no 'parental responsibility' at all for the child?

"Parents in this case deserve a proper explanation and all parents need clarity that there are clear rules rather than them being made up as we go."

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "I will not comment on individual cases, however making sure that all young people receive a good education is my highest priority. Research shows that missing school has a direct effect on attainment and we will always support schools to use the powers available to ensure a child's right to an education.

"We have to act according to national legislation which clearly defines who is a parent for educational purposes. This legislation recognises that parents have a shared responsibility to make sure their child attends school so it is common for more than one adult to be issued with a penalty charge.

"Without going into too much detail, any adult who lives with and looks after a child is deemed to be a parent for educational purposes. Where parents can demonstrate that they could not have influenced the decision to take the child out of school they can ask the school, and in turn the authority, to reconsider."

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Edge Hill workshop on mental health challenges in education

EDGE Hill University, in partnership with the Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL) union, held the first of six workshops designed to address the growing mental health challenges facing education staff and students across the North West.

The Mental Health for Education workshops have been developed in partnership by Edge Hill, the ATL and Everton in the Community in response to the increasing stress placed on educators to address mental health issues experienced by students, often without any professional training or appropriate qualification.

A recent report co-commissioned by the ATL identified the expectations placed on teachers to meet the 'time bomb of mental health problems' among pupils as the most common and concerning issue facing educational professionals across the UK.

The report highlighted that one in 10 young people aged five to 16 experience a clinically diagnosable mental illness, with 50% of all adult mental illnesses (excluding dementia) being first experienced during school years at age 14, and 75% by age 18.

Jon Jones, partnership development and engagement manager and a member of Edge Hill's faculty of education and department of sport and physical activity, said the workshops are the first step in improving the wellbeing of staff and students across the North West.

"There is a growing concern regarding the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, but also of the educational professionals who are often viewed as responsible for dealing with their pupil's mental health and wellbeing, as well as their own.

Delegates at the workshop Andy Smith (Edge Hill University), Dr Wanda Wyporska (ATL), Laura Boyd (ATL), Christine Clarke (Merseyside Workplace Training), Jon Jones (Edge Hill University)

"The six consultation events we have developed offer a great opportunity for us to gather evidence on the day-to-day real world challenges currently being faced by educational professionals.

"Understanding the needs and challenges related to mental health, wellbeing and education will provide us with an opportunity to not only inform policy and practice, but to work with schools to provide support and training to develop school approaches to mental health and wellbeing and professionals understanding and skills to deal with mental health issues."

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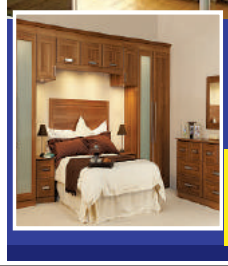

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Martin Mere news

Flamingo chicks hatch at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre

Two greater flamingo chicks have hatched at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre this week.

Centre Manager, Nick Brooks, said: "the flamingo chicks are quite late hatching this year, but it means that we will have flamingo chicks for everyone to see during the summer holidays for the first time, as they are usually quite grown up by late July. We do a flamingo talk everyday at 2pm were we put up a scope and tell our visitors all the weird and wonderful facts about flamingos such as why they stand on one leg. It's a great talk and an opportunity to have the chicks pointed out. Our adult flamingos are actually as old as Martin Mere as they came from WWT Slimbridge 40 years ago. The fact that they still continue to breed is credit to our team of aviculturists and the care they show the birds."

The greater flamingos are one of six species of flamingos found in the world. They are the least vibrant coloured of the six species, being a pale salmon pink.

Flamingos are very social birds which need to be kept together in a large group in order for them to be happy. At Martin Mere there are currently have 57 greater flamingos and they choose the same partners every year. A single egg is laid by each pair and both the male and female take it in turns to incubate. Incubation takes approximately 30 days and all chicks are parent-reared as these social youngsters benefit from being with their mum and dad as well as with each other. In addition, adult flamingos produce a special crop milk to feed their babies on (- pigeons are the only other bird to do this). The fluffy chicks grow very quickly (up to 2cm a day) and they are fully-fledged by the age of 3 months. They are usually grey or white in colouring and it takes approximately 2 to 3 years to obtain full pink plumage.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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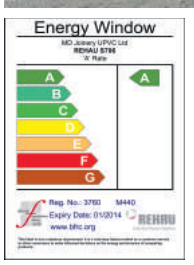

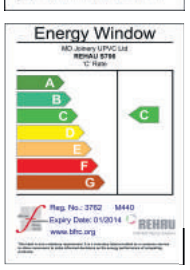

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Charities will be the winners at over-35s football tournament

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A GROUP of football coaches are aiming to 'score' for children and young people's charities when they hold their ninth annual over-35s football tournament and fun day.

Pete Lea, Neil Sheridan, Neil Middlehurst and Derek Kirwan, who have been friends since they teamed up to coach their sons' cub scouts team at St Anne's Church, Ormskirk, set up the St Anne's Super Sixes Football Tournament in 2008 to raise funds for charities that are close to their hearts.

The tournament, for men aged 35 and over, has raised more than £9,000 to date for causes including heart charity CRY, Alder Hey Children's Hospital and a defibrillator unit at St Anne's Pastoral Centre.

Initially featuring eight teams, this year's event on Sunday, July 10 at St Anne's school field in Aughton Street, will be contested by 16. In addition to the football it will feature a barbecue, bouncy castle, raffle, tombola and children's games.

The four founder organisers have now been joined by Adam Melling and Jonny Anderson and will be raising funds for a number of charities in memory of local youngsters, including Cardiac Risk for the Young (CRY).

They chose the charity in support of their friends, John and Maureen Marshall whose son 16-year-old John died suddenly from undiagnosed heart disease in 1995, just a day before he was due to sign for Everton.

The group are also raising funds in memory of St Anne's Church parishioner Edward Walton-Doyle, who died aged just 11 in 2010 after battling leukaemia twice. After he passed away, they renamed the Super Sixes Football Tournament Cup after him and added Alder Hey Children's Hospital, where he had been treated, to their charities.

Tournament organisers Derek Kirwan, Neil Middlehurst, Pete Lea, Neil Sheridan, Jonny Anderson and Adam Melling

The Rainbow House children's charity in Mawdesley has also been added to the beneficiaries after Pete Lea was impressed by their efforts on behalf of 12-year-old Christopher Hardman, who was featured in the Champion recently as he battles to learn to walk again following muscle wastage as a result of a near-fatal infection.

And this year's tournament has a Euro 2016 theme with local businesses sponsoring teams which are then provided with a kit in the colours of their chosen country.

Pete Lea told the Champion: "We were thrilled to have raised enough last year to help CRY fund heart screenings for young people at Edge Hill University.

"Christopher Hardman will be at the event helping with raffle tickets and we are hoping that John and Maureen Marshall will be able to attend the event again this year too.

"We hope that as many families as possible come along to support these fantastic charities and have a great day."

Local businesses wishing to sponsor a team can contact Pete Lea by emailing peaturley@btinternet.com.

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Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Merseyside & surrounding areas and manager Louis Richards agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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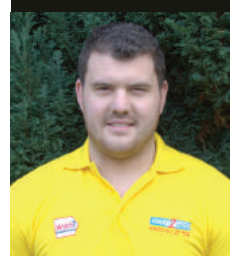

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CIDER drinkers are in for a treat when the Court Leet stages a 17-day festival featuring a range of British draught creations starting on Friday, July 8.

The Wetherspoons pub in Wheatsheaf Walk, Ormskirk will serve 20 ciders, including some not previously available at the venue and others produced exclusively for the festival which runs until Sunday, July 24.

The festival selection will feature apple, pear and fruit ciders.

Among the award-winning ciders on sale will be one made with sloe berries, one matured in oak vats, one flavoured with mango and another with damson, as well as strawberry, raspberry and blackcurrant ciders.

And also featured will be Cidre Normandie, made by a visiting French cider maker from Normandy in collaboration with an English cider maker.

Pub manager, Lisa Newton, said: "The Court Leet will be offering a superb selection during the festival which we are confident will appeal to cider lovers and those enjoying cider for the first time."

Tasting notes on all of the ciders will be available in the pub.

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Now I know what it's like to be powerless!

I'VE suddenly come down to earth with a bump.

For years I have wished I could go back to living in the late 1950s or the 1960s. Life seemed so much simpler then – probably because it was.

But the other evening, just as I as settling down with a mug of coffee to watch a TV programme I was much looking forward to, I heard a muffled thud, the lights went out and the TV screen was blank.

No panic, I thought. With the aid of my trusty torch I examined the fuse box expecting to find a blown fuse, but they were all intact.

Anyway, after a search I found the emergency number for Scottish Power and very quickly an engineer arrived who told me two things.

The good thing was that it was my main power fuse that had blown and he fitted a new one for free. So far, so very good.

The other, bad thing, was that the rats nest I call my electricity cabinet was one the like of which he had never seen – a sort of mish-mash of old and new. Obviously, he told me, a fault had developed somewhere in the house and for some reason had blown the main power fuse, bypassing the old fuse box completely.

I would, he said, have to get an electrician in to sort the whole thing out. Meanwhile, he was not going to turn the power back on but once he had gone it was up to me if I wanted to try – I might be lucky and everything might work.

So I did, and 'thud' again - the newly-installed power fuse had gone once more. The local electrician I called basically took one look and said it would be a big job to sort the fuse cabinet out, let alone find where the basic fault lay.

Which brings me back to my original point – that things were so much simpler not that many years ago.

If you wanted anything to do with your supply, you called Manweb. Now, of course, you shop around on line (if you can) and change your supplier like it was some super electronic board game.

If you wanted to buy any electrical appliance, from a washing machine to a fridge, you visited your local store which specialised in such things, and where the helpful staff could give professional advice and repair things that went wrong.

Now it's a case of off to the PC hypermarket where they want to flog the one that makes the most commission or needs shifting from the shelves. But that IS the world in which I now live, like it or not. No longer do you take your whatever it is for repair, you buy a new one.

And though I may be convinced, kicking and struggling against my will, that I have to accept that this is the 21st Century, unhappily my house is not. The wiring is still much as it was when the place was built, just before Hitler's war. In turn, my mum and late brother modified and modernised various bits and bobs and created the unholy mess I have now inherited.

Frankly, I'm at my wit's end.

Obviously it is going to be quite a big job to restore power to my house. And it's not the expense that's worrying me – it's far more my dogs, Tina and Cinders, who would have to be securely shut up in one room. I imagine they would take exception to a stranger pulling up floorboards and generally banging about and prove an almost insurmountable problem.

I do have a cunning plan to get round this - whether it will work or not I hope to find out within the next two days – I'll let you know.

Meanwhile I am still powerless, literally.

And as I told you a couple of weeks ago, my old mum would have consoled me by telling me: "It's your own fault."

Which I suppose it is. I reckon you possibly could still live in the swinging sixties, but you'd have to have a lot of money to do it!

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Scouting 'on the up' in borough

AN Edge Hill student who became the District Youth Commissioner for the Scouts in West Lancashire earlier this year says creating a team of young leaders has improved young people's experiences in the organisation.

Becca Webster, 20, who is studying geography at the Ormskirk university, has been involved in scouting for the last six years, starting as a Young Leader and going on to become an Explorer Scout Leader.

In her role as District Youth Commissioner, she aims to use youth forums, feedback and the development of Young Leaders to help young people shape their scouting experience as part of the organisation's Youth-Shaped Scouting national initiative which aims to make young people feel valued and listened to.

She said: "Over the past few months Youth Shaped Scouting in Ormskirk has gone from strength to strength. Not only do we now have our sectional reps who will attend all leaders' meetings and sectional event planning meetings, but we now also have a district explorer support team to ensure further youth involvement throughout the district.

"It's been a pleasure to visit many sections whilst they participate in activities that allow young people to share their views and opinions as young people are keen to share their ideas and give feedback.

"It was great to see the 61st Cubs, aged eight to 10, get involved in planning their very first camp as well as the 51st Beavers, aged six to eight sharing ideas for the theme for their next sleepover.

"It is great to be able to give young people greater opportunities to shape their scouting experience in partnership with adults. By giving them leadership skills and confidence we offer them a better start in life."

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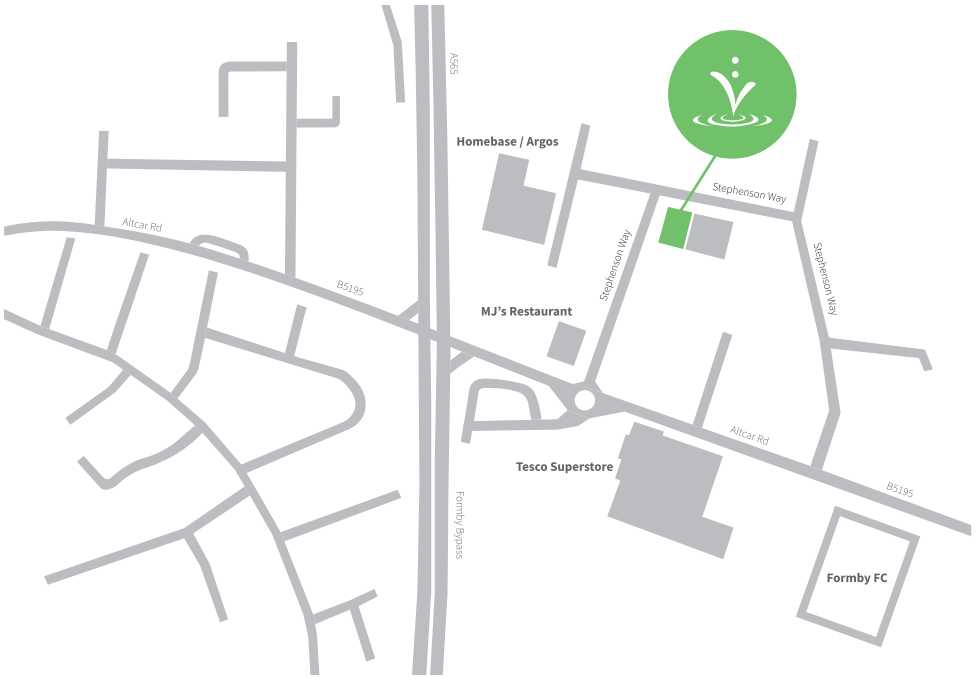

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Walkers offer healthy option to support hospice

A LOCAL walking group are offering West Lancs residents the chance to take some healthy exercise and boost a good cause.

The ACTion Walkers, based at Aughton Village Hall, have organised a series of leisurely five-mile circular weekend walks around the borough and surrounding areas, starting from the hall in Winfred Lane at 2pm and meeting back there for refreshments.

Walks and refreshments are free but a small donation for Queenscourt Hospice is always appreciated and there's no need to book, just turn up.

The first walk will be held on Sunday, July 10 and will cover Butchers Lane in Ormskirk.

This will be followed by 'Three Farms and a Canal' on Saturday, July 23; Edge Hill Campus on Sunday, August 7; Clieves Hill on Saturday, August 13; Downholland on Sunday, August 28; Melling on Saturday, September 10; and Mossock Hall on Sunday, September 25.

For more details email group leaders, Mark and Julia at actionwalkers@gmail.com.

Book lover Grace strikes gold on reading trail

A YOUNG book lover from West Lancashire is the latest to strike 'gold' in a scheme which aims to encourage children to read.

Seven-year-old Grace Taylor, who is a member of Ormskirk library, successfully completed the Lancashire Reading Trail challenge by reading 50 books and writing reviews.

She was awarded a Gold Reading Trail certificate and also won a free book of her choice.

Any youngsters wishing to tackle the challenge can pop in to their nearest Lancashire library and ask for details.

Right: Grace Taylor with her certificate and free book

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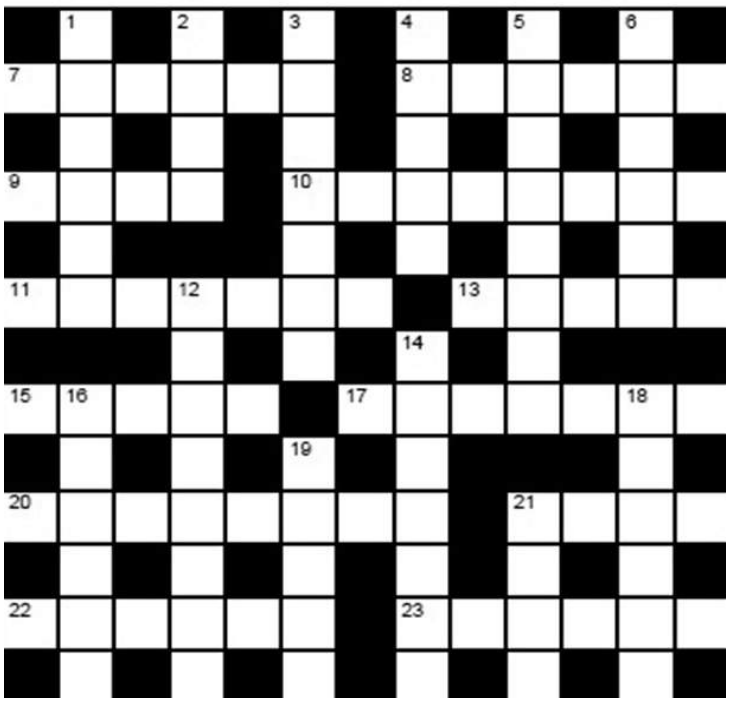
Week 27



Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Trading estate. 8 Embossed. 9 Rare. 10 Tipster. 12 Legit. 14 Oddly. 16 Goodbye. 19 Olio. 20 Naturist. 22 Infant prodigy.

Down: 1 Cram. 2 Odious. 3 Knesset. 4 Ready. 5 Starve. 6 Eternity. 11 Indolent. 13 Lottery. 15 Loofah. 17 Deride. 18 Unite. 21 Sage.

ACROSS

7 Speak highly of (6)
8 Light, engine-less aircraft (6)
9 Challenge (4)
10 Thick drink made with pureed fresh fruit (8)
11 Committee of senior government ministers (7)
13 Personal teacher (5)
15 Active and energetic (5)
17 Large French country house (7)
20 Area used for agriculture (8)
21 12 months (4)
22 Control of when something should be done (6)
23 State protection afforded to political refugees (6)

DOWN

1 Large fleet of warships (6)
2 Similar to (4)
3 Infectious viral disease usually occurring in childhood (7)
4 Encourage someone to do something (3,2)
5 Be suspicious of (8)
6 Breed of sheep originating in Spain (6)
12 Inability to sleep (8)
14 Any of several types of cheese named after a village in Somerset (7)
16 Informal term for a rock band crew member (6)
18 Simple counting frame (6)
19 Chuckle (5)
21 Move up and down, fluctuate (2-2)

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Volunteers' anger at Jospice job cuts

VOLUNTEERS at Jospice charity shops have spoken out after staff redundancies began across the area.

As reported in the Champion in April, bosses at the Thornton-based hospice said they were preparing to implement a 'new retail team structure' as a result of the rise in the minimum wage.

This included reducing the eight retail managers across nine stores, including Ormskirk, to five.

Now, a volunteer has contacted us to express anger and disappointment after some managers left their posts this month.

The volunteer, who preferred to remain anonymous, said: "Two of the longest-serving and hardest-working managers have now been made redundant. People who have put their heart and soul into a job they always loved are now devastated about the way they have been treated.

"Other shop managers are now expected to manage their shops for little reward and spend more money travelling further to manage shops.

"It would be interesting to know how much those responsible for this earn and if their jobs at risk too?

"Is this what the supporters are donating goods to the shops for? They are losing the support of so many volunteers over this."

The decision by Jospice has been blamed on the new National Living Wage, which rose to £7.50 an hour for over-25s at the start of April and is expected to rise to £9 by 2020.

A spokesperson for Jospice told the Champion in April: "Due to ever-increasing costs and the introduction of the National Living Wage we are unable to continue with the existing staff structure within our retail team."

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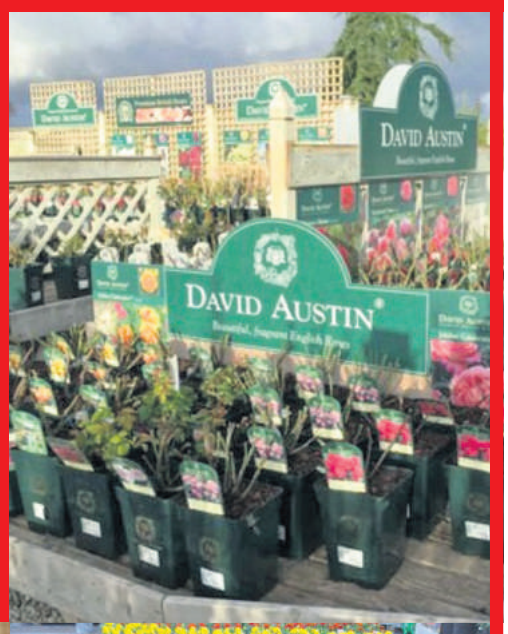

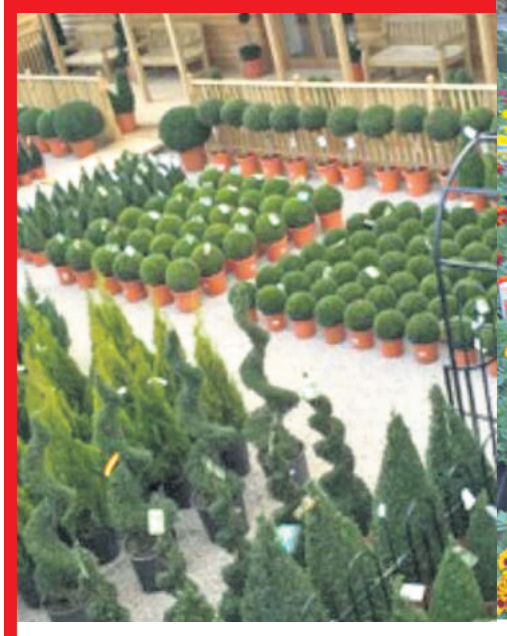

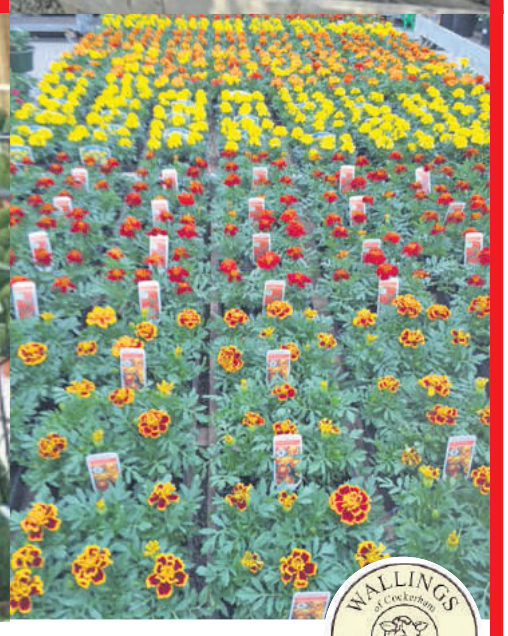

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Employment soars in West Lancashire

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

THE number of people in West Lancashire claiming Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) has fallen by one in four since this time last year, according to the latest figures released by Jobcentre Plus.

The number of claimants registered for June 2016 is 930, a decrease of 190 from last June's figure of 1,120.

Jobcentre Plus manager, Alan Harrison said that the 26% rise in employment was due to a "buoyant" job market in the UK and could also be attributed to a healthy jobs market in nearby Liverpool.

He explained: "Across Liverpool and West Lancashire combined there has been a marked decrease in the number of claimants overall.

"The national average of the number of people by area who are employed is currently at 74.2% - the highest it has been since 1971.

"It is brilliant that in West Lancs and Liverpool, we are only around 2.5% short of that figure – a very marked improvement on recent years and only just short.

"In this area, there are now 50% less claimants than there were in 2010, the area is beginning to do very well.

"This has been helped hugely by the buoyant jobs market in Liverpool, there has been a huge increase in the number of job vacancies created in and around the city.

"We are hoping to hugely increase the number of claimants engaging with modern technology, including social media site Twitter, to drive up the number who are successful in gaining employment."

Council prepare for bug invasion

THE Borough Council is urging West Lancashire residents to call them if they have an insect invasion this summer.

Many homes and businesses may experience problems with crawling and flying insects, particularly wasps, flies, bees and ants during the warmer summer months.

Wasps have the potential to attack in large numbers if they are disturbed, so it's best to treat a nest as early as possible before numbers increase and the wasps become more aggressive.

In most cases, a wasp sting causes no long term harm, but it can potentially be life-threatening if you are allergic to stings. Wasps can build nests outdoors under eaves or, if they can gain access, they can find sheltered areas inside your home, such as wall cavities, roof spaces and attics.

The Council's Pest Control Service will visit by appointment and aim to successfully treat nuisance insect pest problems during the visit.

This includes the relocation of bees.

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Sporty pupils book their places for county games finals

PUPILS from Aughton Town Green Primary and Trinity Primary, Skelmersdale were the latest to secure places at the largest youth sporting event in the county, the SPAR Lancashire School Games, after victories in mini tennis and girls' football respectively.

The Trinity girls stormed to success against Ormskirk CE Primary at Glenburn Sports College. After a tense final, the match went into extra time at 2-2, beforeTrinity grabbed the winning goal.

The school were this week competing against 14 other Lancashire districts at the SPAR Lancashire School Games seeking more success in the event after the district scooped the plate at last year's event.

Aughton Town Green Primary took on Dalton St Michael's CE Primary in an exciting play-off, also at Glenburn Sports College, securing a 3-1 win.

They were also set to seeks more success for West Lancs in mini tennis after the district took home bronze at the Lancashire School Games 2015.

The football girls from Trinity Primary (above) and the Aughton Town Green Primary mini tennis squad (below)

Enthusiasm

Chris Hart, school games organiser for West Lancashire, said: "This year's West Lancs mini tennis tournament was a huge success, with both teams showing great enthusiasm and determination. The children are so excited to be going to the county finals to represent the district and I wish them the very best of luck."

Now in its 10th year, the SPAR Lancashire School Games comprises two main events designed to give all children the opportunity to participate in competitive sport.

Schools from across Lancashire competed against pupils from 14 other county districts to be crowned champions in sports including rounders, tennis, orienteering, netball, athletics and gymnastics.

More than 2,400 youngsters were expected to take part in the finals held at Stanley Park, Blackpool yesterday (Tuesday, July 5).

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Braille specialist spearheads sight campaign

A BRAILLE specialist is calling for companies and organisations in West Lancashire to show more consideration for residents with reduced vision.

Kirsty Bull was prompted to act after a visit to a restaurant with an older friend whose eyesight is not 100%.

After asking for an alternative menu they were dismayed when the staff member confessed that they had never considered the needs of customers with reduced vision and offered instead to read out the details.

Kirsty, who is a member of the UK Association for Accessible Formats, believes

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

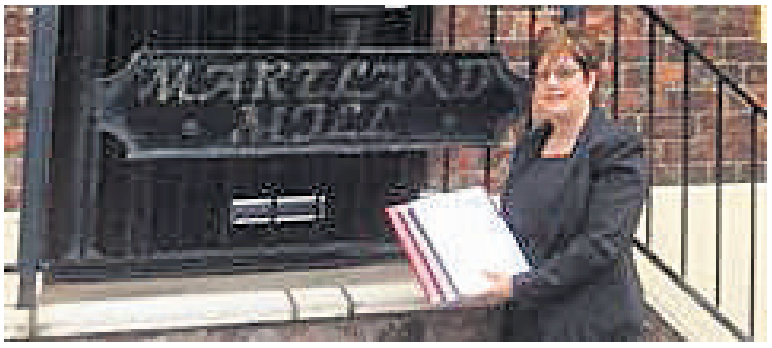
that more needs to be done to ensure that all customers are made to feel more included and suggests that all businesses should offer a copy of their material to customers in an alternative format.

She told the Champion: "We are on a mission to get alternative formats available to those that need it, when they need it. I want companies and the public to know that there is a legal requirement to make reasonable adjustments to assist people to access all services and better information.

"Having worked as a translator in local education I became very aware of the importance of accessibility and realised that many places I visited did not have large print or Braille ready for customers, patients or clients.

"With an ageing population, more and more people are becoming visually or physically impaired and are struggling to access information. We need to make it accessible for everyone.

"Many of my friends and family cannot read standard-print menus and it makes them feel very awkward, isolated and 'different'."



Kirsty Bull holding an alternative format

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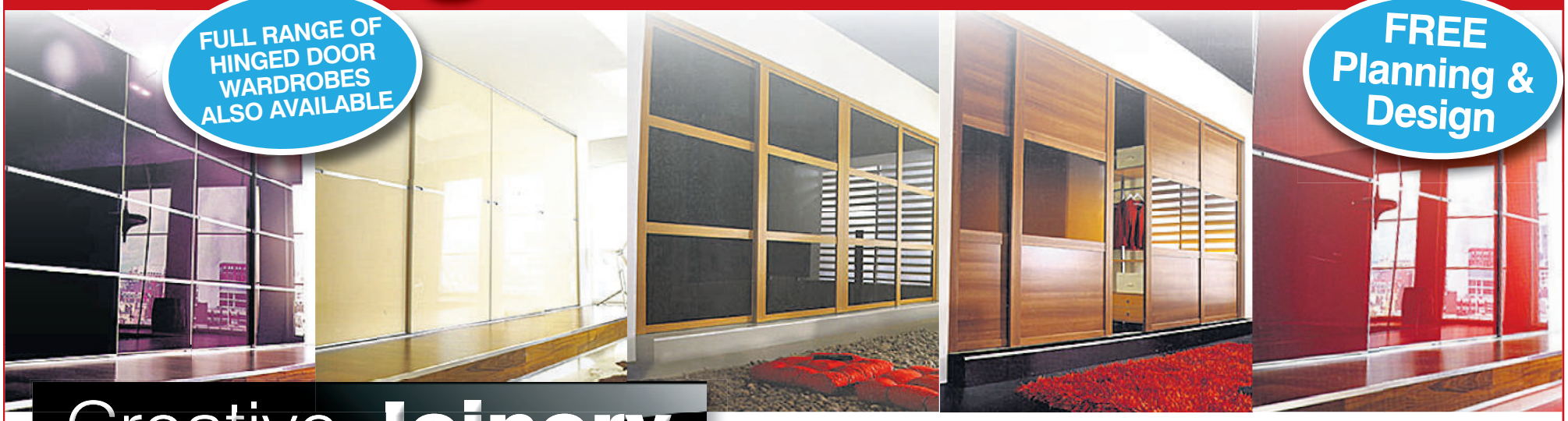

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Parbold Chamber Choir

Choir to stage patriotic concert

PARBOLD Chamber Choir will be holding a patriotic summertime concert on Saturday, July 9 starting at 7.30pm at Parbold Village Hall.

This year the choir's annual summer concert has been named Dear Old Blighty to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

The programme will include a medley of popular songs from the 1914-18 war, specially arranged by musical director Jim Cooke, including ' Goodby-ee' and 'Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag.'

And in honour of the Queen's 90th birthday, extracts from Edward German's comic opera Merrie England will be included, when the choir will be joined again by soloists Vicky Little and Paul Chamberlain. Peter Kwater will accompany the choir at the Steinway piano.

Tickets cost £10 and include a buffet supper (bring your own drink) and bookings can be made by calling 01704 821303 or 01257 464653 or emailing contact@parboldchamberchoir.co.uk.

University to honour Up Holland baroness

BARONESS Cathy Ashton from Up Holland is one of 10 individuals set to receive honorary degrees from Edge Hill University.

The recipients will be honoured at the Ormskirk university's 2016 summer graduation ceremony to be held between Monday, July 18 and Friday, July 22 in recognition of their contributions to society in teaching and research.

Labour politician Baroness Ashton served as the first vice-president of the European Commission in the Barroso Commission from 2009 to 2014.

In December 2009 she became the inaugural High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy that was created by the Treaty of Lisbon.

Also being honoured is Liverpool-born actor David Morrisey for his achievements in the world of film, television and the performing arts; and classical pianist Paul Lewis who is regarded as one of the leading musicians of his generation.

Paul Lewis is the son of a Liverpool dock worker and a local council officer who has not forgotten his roots, regularly performing in the North West.

Edge Hill's vice-chancellor Dr John Cater said: "Edge Hill University is proud to honour these individuals who have made significant contributions across different fields of accomplishment.

"We are delighted to recognise David Morrissey, undoubtedly one of the finest actors of his generation; former first vice-president of the EU Commission Baroness Cathy Ashton and classical music doyens Paul Lewis and John Rigby."

Also being honoured are Colin and Wendy Parry who established the Foundation for Peace charity; crime and policing historian Professor Clive Emsley; vice-president of the International Crime Court Judge Cuno Tarfusser; and former pro vice-chancellors Rhiannon Evans and Mark Flinn.

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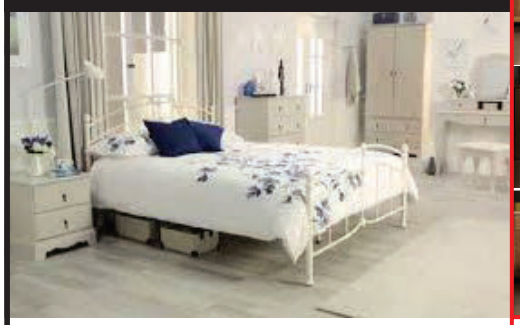

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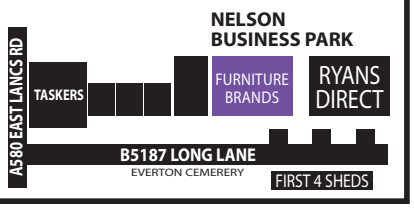

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Healthy outlook for college students

PICTURED are West Lancashire College health and social care level 3 BTEC students are who progressing on to university and employment after a year at the college.

This year, many of the students are set to achieve the highest grades possible (3D*) and have been successful in gaining university places and employment.

The majority have chosen to progress to a variety of prestigious higher education institutions and have each gained offers from five different universities of their choice to study a range of different courses including adult nursing, mental health nursing, children's nursing, counselling and psychology.

For those not opting for university local labour market intelligence for Lancashire shows that employment in health and social care is set to rise over the next four years. Many students have already had success in gaining employment through their college work experience placement in GP surgeries and health Care settings.

Royal Mail plea to pet owners to help halt dog attacks on postal staff

Report by **Tom Martin**

ROYAL Mail has launched a campaign across West Lancashire to raise awareness of pet dogs attacking postal workers.

Mail bosses have revealed that 27 staff were victims of attacks across the L postcode area, which includes Ormskirk and Skelmersdale, between April 2015 and April 2016.

And although that figure is actually down 10% on the previous year, they are determined to reduce such attacks further.

The Royal Mail campaign, which has been backed by TV presenter and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home ambassador Paul O'Grady, is aimed at increasing awareness of the problem.

Paul O'Grady said: "Dogs can be quite protective of their owners and homes. They believe they are merely defending their property, but it's important to recognise that this behaviour can sometimes escalate to dog bite incidents with anyone coming to your home, including postmen.

Paul O'Grady is backing the campaign

"No one should feel unsafe in the workplace and it's important we as dog owners, take the necessary steps to give postmen this same respect. Encourage good behaviour when someone new visits. Just spending time getting your pets familiar with guests coming to the house will help create a safer environment for all."

The number of attacks rises by 10% during the school holidays and in the summer months when parents and children are at home.

Geoff Braden, operations director for Royal Mail, added: "We know that the overwhelming majority of dogs are friendly most of the time, however, even the most placid animal will defend itself if it feels its territory is being threatened. Our first priority as an employer is to ensure the welfare and safety of our people who provide a valuable service to our customers.

"Our postmen and women deliver to more than 29 million addresses across the country. We ask them to exercise caution and respect for all family members, including pets when delivering the mail.

"This summer, we are also appealing to dog owners and their families across the L postcode area to help reduce the numbers of attacks, particularly at the door and in the garden."

A poster will be on display in enquiry offices across the area giving tips to dog owners on how they can help keep the postman safe when they call to deliver their mail.

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Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage with members of the Prince's Trust Team 8 in the renovated polytunnel

Tunnel vision!

Care home residents can dig in to new hobby - thanks to Prince's Trust crew

A GROUP of care home residents could soon be able to 'dig in' to a new hobby and grow their own vegetables - thanks to members of the Prince's Trust Ormskirk Team 8.

The team, young people aged 16 to 25 and based at Ormskirk College in Hants Lane, renovated a rundown polytunnel - a kind of polythene greenhouse - at Beaufort Care Home in High Lane, Burscough as part of their community project.

The Princes Trust scheme places recruits on 12-week development courses which include a fully-paid, four-day residential project for the community.

Trust volunteers are also placed in a suitable two-week work environment enabling them to gain valuable work experience and an appropriate reference. And they gain a qualification at the conclusion, along with other certificates.

Ormskirk Prince's Trust team leader, Jonathon Marlow, said: "We renovated the rundown polytunnel at the home to make it safer and useable again in the hope the residents can grow vegetables and enjoy a new hobby."

The next Prince's Trust team will start in September. For information on taking part contact Jonathan on 01695 52414 or email jonathon.marlow@westlancs.ac.uk.

Cathedral open evening for would-be choristers

BUDDING choristers are invited to attend an open evening at Liverpool Cathedral.

The event, aimed at primary school children, will be staged at the city's Anglican cathedral on Friday, July 8 from 5.15pm.

Youngsters, accompanied by their parents, will be able to hear the choir sing and view a presentation on life as a chorister, followed by a question-and-answer session with current cathedral choristers.

Stephen Mannings, the assistant choral director said: "We are looking for the next intake of Cathedral Choristers who will start in September. Potential choristers must possess a musical ear, be committed, enthusiastic, and have an all-round bright spark about them.

"The open evening will be a great chance for children and families to gain an insight into life as a Cathedral Chorister and to learn of the commitment involved and many, many rewards that come from being a chorister here."

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Shoppers' spare change will give a lift to aviation trust

DONATIONS made by shoppers at a local supermarket will be given to a national trust which aims to safeguard the nation's aviation heritage.

Staff members at Booths supermarket in Burscough have put out two spare-change donation boxes and all of the funds donated by shoppers will be donated to the Fly Navy Heritage Trust, a charity which aims to preserve and promote the UK's naval aviation history.

The charity was chosen as the supermarket is located on land which was part of the former Royal Naval Air Station at Burscough from 1943 to 1946, HMS Ringtail. The store was built to resemble a World War Two aircraft hangar.

The in-store cafe has also a HMS Ringtail theme and outside is a memorial garden along with a unique sculpture of a Second World War navy airman.

Local historian Lawrence Critchley welcomed the fundraising idea.

One of the spare-change donation boxes at Booths in Burscough

He said: "The Royal Naval historic flight is the living memorial to all those who have served in the Royal Naval Air Service and Fleet Air Arm since its formation.

"The aircraft of the flight represent a golden thread linking the past with the future.

"From the iconic Swordfish biplane, through to the Hawker Sea Fury, the last of the piston engine fighters of the 1950s, and the Hawker Sea Hawk representing the Fleet Air Arm's entry into the jet-age carrier aviation, the flying collection provides a powerful evolutionary and educational link between the Royal Navy's historic past and future.

"Booths' gesture of support is very much appreciated, their whole approach to the recognition of the history and heritage of the former air station and naval aviation has been wonderful."

There is also a leaflet holder in the café with more information on the Fly Navy Heritage Trust and HMS Ringtail.

If you have any pictures or information that may be added to the growing archive on HMS Ringtail you can contact Lawrence Critchley via email at LOlcritchley@aol.com, or write to him at 26 Fairfield Drive, Ormskirk, L39 1RL.

Chance for animal charities to cash in

ANIMAL rescue organisations are being urged to nominate themselves for a cash boost from a national grant-giving animal charity.

Since being established in 2006, Support Adoption For Pets has helped more than 1,000 rehoming centres and animal welfare organisations across the UK by awarding grants and running fundraising campaigns with Pets at Home.

Staff at Burscough's Pets at Home store are calling on local animal charities, rescue centres and welfare organisations to contact them and nominate themselves to join the charity partnership scheme.

The scheme offers support from both Support Adoption For Pets and the Pets at Home store through a range of activities, including the chance to increase awareness and funds via in-store 'meet and greet' events and also eligibility to be nominated and take part in national fundraising drives run by Support Adoption For Pets during the year.

Justine Quirk from Support Adoption For Pets said: "Since being established in 2006, we have helped over 920 re-homing centres and animal welfare organisations across the UK. Our local charity partner scheme, in association with Pets at Home stores, has proved very successful across the UK and we can't wait to be able to support an animal cause in Burscough."

For more information, email info@supportadoptionforpets.co.uk.

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Auction raises £1,450 for children's charity

STAFF at a woodland burial site have raised more than £1,450 for a children's bereavement charity.

Members of the team at the GreenAcres site in Rainford on the West Lancashire border, held a charity auction in aid of Child Bereavement UK.

The charity supports families when a baby or child of any age dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement.

It also trains professionals, such as teachers and nurses, to help them better understand the needs of grieving families in their working life.

The auction was supported by Co-operative Funeralcare, Business for Breakfast and St Helens Rugby League Club.

It featured a three-course meal and music provided by Vicki Vixen and The Badgers, with auction prizes including a signed Liverpool FC football shirt, which was won by guest David Gaskell.

Child Bereavement UK fundraising officer, Jonathan Evans said: "We are extremely grateful to everyone at GreenAcres for arranging the night and raising a fantastic amount of money.

"Our charity relies solely on donations to continue the work we do and without the support of organisations like GreenAcres that wouldn't be possible.

"The auction was a great success and there were some wonderful prizes. It was a great night all round."

Right: Keely Thompson, from GreenAcres, presents the signed Liverpool FC shirt to the highest bidder David Gaskell

Fifth Park Praise event proves a crowd-puller

CROWDS flocked to the town's Coronation Park at the weekend for the fifth bi-annual Ormskirk Park Praise event.

The free event, on Saturday, June 25, featured a host of attractions for all the family, including bouncy castles, fitness challenges, stalls, rides, a barbeque and dog agility sessions.

Entertainment was also provided by international songwriter and worship leader, Dave Bilbrough.

Organised by Ormskirk and District Churches Together, the day was supported by West Lancs Council, Lancashire County Council and the West Lancs Ranger Service.

Also in attendance was the Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage, along wth the mayoress, Lorraine Haslett, event organiser Jackie Currie, Street Pastor Dave Mutch and Geoff Fallows, chairman of Ormskirk Foodbank.

Right: Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage and mayoress Lorraine Haslett pictured with Geoff Fallows, Jackie Currie, entertainer Steve and Dave Mutch.

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Comedy was a 'great night out'

Review by **Ron Ellis**

Breezeblock Park by Willy Russell
Mawdesley Amateur Dramatic Society (MADS)
Mawdesley Village Hall

DIRECTED by Hilda McAughey, this was a brilliant production by MADS of what is arguably Willy Russell's funniest comedy, the trials of growing up, and away from, a family on a Liverpool council estate in the Seventies.

Bridgett Welch was superb as Betty who with her docile husband, Syd (Steve Ryan) is entertaining her brother, Tommy (Phil Quinn) and his wife, Vera (Debbie Watts) on Christmas Eve, anxious to show off her new suite.

Imagine their shock then when teenage daughter, Sandra (Libby Cwburn) walks in and announces she is pregnant and is going to leave home to live with her student boyfriend, Tim (Toby Hewitt). She wants to go to college and learn about theatre, and art, things unheard of in this household.

As Act Two opens, they are all at the home of Betty's sister, Reeny (Lorraine Ryan) for Christmas Day. Reeny is anxious to point out she has a more expensive suite than Betty, and central heating! Her husband, Ted (Chris Hill) is one of those annoying people who knows everything, answers his own questions and interrupts everyone.

Their teenage son, John (Matthew Hutcheon) is kept in check and watches TV submissively. He, like Sandra, had tried breaking away from the family but his act of rebellion was quashed by his father and he was 'put on tablets'.

Consequently, when Tim arrives, the family gang together and insist he and Sandra stay in the house and they will make a flat for them upstairs. Sandra refuses and walks out but, unlike Ted, Betty makes the sacrifice and sends Tim after her, realising she should be allowed to live her own life. At this point, one feels a great sadness for John, still trapped in this claustrophobic environment.

There were laughs galore and the characters came across as real people.

The biggest laugh of the night came when Tommy gave Betty a vibrator for her Christmas present. The rest of the family were in fits, as were the audience, as she looked at it wonderingly, until Tommy explained it was a cocktail mixer and dipped it suggestively into his wine glass.

But beneath the humour, the play carried a serious message about the difficulties of breaking away from a working class background.

The costumes and the two impressive sets accurately represented the period and coupled with some superb acting made this a most enjoyable evening. **Star Rating 8 out of 10.** A great play and a great night out.

Fast-paced Richard III coming to Rufford

The Handlebards to perform Richard III at Rufford Old Hall

THERE is a chance to see Shakespeare's Richard III at Rufford Old Hall tonight (Wednesday, July 6) at 6pm.

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SAT 6th
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THU 11th (Floral Hall)
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SAT 27th
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SEPTEMBER
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FRI 16th
THE CARPENTERS STORY
WED 21st
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WED 28th
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OCTOBER
THU 6th
AN EVENING OF DIRTY DANCING: THE TRIBUTE SHOW
FRI 7th
ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN
Performed by **Gary Mullen** *and* **The Works**
SAT 8th
HALFWAY TO PARADISE THE BILLY FURY STORY
MON 24th - THU 27th
HELEN FORRESTER'S TWOPENCE TO CROSS THE MERSEY
FRI 28th
PROFESSOR BRIAN COX LIVE
SAT 29th
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SOUTHERN CHARLES

Charles' family would like to express deep and sincere thanks for all the wonderful tributes paid and the many messages of sympathy. Also to all those who attended his funeral and to those who have made donations. Thank you to Moisters Funeral Directors for their support and to all involved in the moving service held on 29th June.

DEATHS

REILLY CATHERINE (CATHY)

27th June 2016

Remembering you is easy Cathy, we do it every day and missing you is something that will never go away.
Rest in peace little sister.
Love you forever,
Rose & Steve,
Nieces & Nephews
Rebecca & Pete,
Eve & Gareth and their families.

DEATHS

REILLY CATHERINE (CATHY)

27th June 2016
Peacefully at her home in Westhead.
Aged 51 years

The dearly loved Daughter of the late James & Flora, loving Sister of Derek (deceased), Brian, Joyce, Susie, Rose and Paul, dear Sister in law of Lynne, Anne, Dave, Steve and Nicky and much loved Auntie to all her Nieces and Nephews. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Thursday 7th July 2016 at 1.00pm followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for the Whiteledge Day Centre. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent family funeral directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel:- 01695 722122 / 720012

HEMSON BARBARA

July 2nd 2016.
Peacefully at home.
Aged 80.

Loving Wife of Michael (Mike) and Mum to the late Philip and the late Graham. Mother-in-law to Linda and Lesley and Grandma to John, Stuart, Nicola and Lydia. Sister to Marian. Will be greatly missed by family and friends. Funeral service at West Lancs Crematorium on Wednesday 13th July at 12.15pm. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, to Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors,128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk L39 2EY. Tel: 01695 572997

DEATHS

REILLY CATHERINE (CATHY)

27th June 2016

There's a place in our hearts no one can fill.
We miss you
"Our Cathy" and always will.

Love forever,
Joyce, Dave,
Carly & Hayley

FORSHAW JOSEPH

29th June 2016
Peacefully
Aged 85 years

Loving Husband of Maureen. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service and interment will take place at St Pauls Church on Friday 8th July at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Stocks Hall Nursing Home, Skelmersdale. All enquiries, Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

DEATHS

REILLY CATHERINE (CATHY)

27th June 2016

The years we spent together,
will never go away.
Only the happy memories of you are left with us today.
The bond between us can never be broken, only our hearts.
Your loving Sister
Susie, Nephew Jamie & family.

REILLY CATHERINE (CATHY)

27th June 2016

Put your arms around her Lord,
kiss her smiling face.
She was a special Sister who can never be replaced.
With our love always,
Paul, Nicky, Tom,
Lauren and Katie
XXX

BIRCHALL BRIAN

On 4th July 2016
Passed away at home with his beloved family.
Aged 76 years.

Loving Husband of June, devoted Dad of Jill, dear Father in law of Kostas, cherished Grandad of George and Nikoleta. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Funeral details and further enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868.

Announcements

IN MEMORIAM

SPENCER BRENDA

9th July 2010

Our hearts still ache with sadness and many tears still flow.
What it meant to lose you no one will ever know. We hold you close within our hearts and there you will remain.
To walk with us throughout our lives until we meet again.
We still miss you every day. Love from John, Ann, Bobby, Natalie, Stephen, Andrew and new baby Joseph.
xxx

Place a classified ad
01704 392392

DELANEY FRANCES

9/7/2008

8 years have come and gone, you will always be in our hearts and minds.
Love you always,
Husband Jimmy,
Sons and Daughters,
Grandsons and Grandaughters xx

PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

SF

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25202	26757
26214	29361
29186	12713
21840	15471
22363	82308
339954	17257
15875	28457
17151	26195

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(GRAVEYARD LANE, SCARTH HILL LANE, LONG LANE, POPPY LANE, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016
(TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) ORDER 2016

The Lancashire County Council ("the County Council") in exercise of its powers under **Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, (the Act), and of all other enabling powers,
HEREBY makes the following Order:-
The Lancashire County Council (GRAVEYARD LANE, SCARTH HILL LANE, LONG LANE, POPPY LANE, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016) ORDER 2016, is hereby temporarily amended in that:
i. To amend Article 2 as follows:
The prohibitions will be operative as per the attached schedule
This Temporary Amendment Order shall come into operation on 27th June 2016 and may be cited as "**The Lancashire County Council** (GRAVEYARD LANE, SCARTH HILL LANE, LONG LANE, POPPY LANE, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016) (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) ORDER 2016
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701
[Ref: HRiT/2976/1/WH]

TTRO - WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH

Amended Schedule of Temporary Road Closures

The table below shows the roads affected by the proposed utilities works and the extent to which they may be closed.
Diversion routes will be signed and adapted as and when the various sections are closed.

Road	Section	Additional information
1. Scarth Hill Lane	Jct with St Helens Road to Poppy Lane	From 18/07/2016 to 05/08/2016 Access will be maintained whenever & wherever possible.
2. Scarth Hill Lane	Outside Hillside to the Jct with St Helens Road	From 15/08/2016 to 23/09/2016 Access will be maintained whenever & wherever possible.
3. Poppy Lane	Scarth Hill Lane to the Jct with Croppers Lane	From 26/08/2016 to 30/09/2016. Access will be maintained whenever & wherever possible.
4. Long Lane	50m NW of the Jct with Long Lane to the Jct of Long Lane.	From 03/10/2016 to 07/10/2016 Access will be maintained whenever & wherever possible.
5. Graveyard Lane	For 30 Meters outside Maltkiln Farm Cottage.	From 10/10/2016 to 14/10/2016 Access will be maintained whenever & wherever possible.
6. Graveyard Lane	Opposite no 1 to 25m Southwards.	From 17/10/2016 to 21/10/2016 Access will be maintained whenever & wherever possible.

The main diversion routes are shown below.

1. Scarth Hill Lane – Long Lane – A506 Liverpool Road – A570 Ormskirk Road – Scarth Hill Lane. From Poppy Lane Follow, Croppers Lane – Long Lane – A506 Liverpool Road – A570 Ormskirk Road – Scarth Hill Lane.
2. Scarth Hill Lane – Ruff Lane – A570 Knowsley Road – A570 St Helens Road.
3. Poppy Lane – Scarth Hill Lane – Long Lane – Croppers Lane – Poppy Lane.
4. Long Lane – A506 Liverpool Road – A570 Ormskirk Road – A570 Park Road – B5197 Aughton Street – A59 Holborn Hill – Long Lane .
5 & 6. Graveyard Lane – Long lane – A506 Liverpool Road – Graveyard Lane.

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(SHORE ROAD, HESKETH BANK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)

(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of Shore Road, Hesketh Bank from 20metres either side of its junction with Belsfield Drive in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0830 hours until 1530 hours on Saturday 23rd July 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via:- Station Road – Chapel Road
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utilities works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/3617/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(HALL LANE, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016
(TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) ORDER 2016

The Lancashire County Council ("the County Council") in exercise of its powers under **Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, (the Act), and of all other enabling powers,
HEREBY makes the following Order:-
The Lancashire County Council (HALL LANE, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016, is hereby temporarily amended in that:
i. To amend Article 2 as follows:
The prohibition will be operative daily between 0700 hours and 1700 hours from Monday 18th July 2016 until Friday 12th August 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
This Temporary Amendment Order shall come into operation on 01ST June 2016 and may be cited as "**The Lancashire County Council** (HALL LANE, BICKERSTAFFE, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016 (TEMPORARY AMENDMENT) ORDER 2016
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/2705/1/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(DERBY STREET AND GREETBY HILL, ORMSKIRK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Derby Street and Greetby Hill, Ormskirk from its junction with Stanley Street to its junction with Tower Hill.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily between 0700 hours and 1700 hours from Monday 25th July 2016 until Friday 29th July 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: A570 Stanley Street, A577 Wigan Road, Tower Hill and Vice Versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow carriageway inlay works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made: Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701
[Ref: HRiT/3065/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(PRESCOT ROAD, AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of Prescot Road, Aughton from its junction with Orchard view for approx 25 meters southbound.
2. The prohibition will be operative between 0830 hours and 1530 hours on Sunday 17th July 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: Town Green Lane – Winifred Lane – A59 Liverpool Road – Long Lane – Parrs Lane and Vice Versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow utility works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made: Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701

[Ref: HRiT/2975/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(COOPERS LANE, WRIGHTINGTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle, to proceed over that length of Coopers lane, Wrightington from 20 meters south of Wrennall's Lower Barn for approx 100 metres northbound.
2. The prohibition will be operative between 0800 hours on Monday 18th July to 1700 on Friday 5th August or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: Coopers lane – Barmskin Lane – Bentley Lane – Sanderson Lane and vice versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Utility works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made: Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701
[Ref: HRiT/2967/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0550/FUL Erection of a detached two storey dwelling with double garage and garden at Holly Farm, 29 Holly Lane, Rufford.
Application No: 2016/0676/FUL Replacement of the existing slate roof with Campo Lambao Spanish slates at 1 Manor House Close, Rufford.
Application No: 2016/0708/FUL The demolition and reconstruction of a dilapidated barn to form new dwelling at Land Adjacent To, 13 Smithy Lane, Scarisbrick.
The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.
Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 6th July 2016
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT905

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(RING O BELLS LANE, LATHOM, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Ring o Bells lane, Lathom from its junction with Briars Lane to its junction with Moss Bridge Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily between 0700 hours and 1700 hours from Monday 11th July 2016 until Friday 12th August 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: A5209 Briars Lane – A5209 Lowry Hill Lane – Moss Bridge Lane and Vice Versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Carriageway patching works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701
[Ref: HRiT/3556/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(LEES LANE, DALTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.
1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over that length of Lees lane, Dalton from its junction with Appley Lane South to its junction with Higher Lane.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily between 0700 hours and 1700 hours from Monday 18th July 2016 until Friday 12th August 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: B5375 Appley Lane South – B5375 Appley Lane North – A5209 Sparrow Hill – A5209 Parbold Hill – A5209 Alder Lane – Higher Lane and Vice Versa.
The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow Carriageway resurfacing works to be carried out.
Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/3557/WH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

PROPERTY FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Tingdean Lodge

Sandpool Country Park, LEVENS

LAKE DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

40ft x 20ft
5 years old
2 bedrooms
2 bathrooms (1 en-suite)
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Large lounge
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Top Gear still has the bare bones of a brilliant show

Life On Cars
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SO, THAT'S it then. The charismatic figure at the helm of one of Britain's more controversial institutions has decided to stand down.

He had a flair for showmanship and a gut instinct to bring the ship he was steering into more politically correct waters. To his detractors he was an irritating so-and-so who seemed to show up everywhere but to his many fans he's the sort of bloke you feel you could have a pint with. You either loved or loathed him, but his real success was that you had an opinion at all.

Obviously this would all be terrible news for UKIP if they didn't have someone to replace Nigel with, but as luck would have it Chris Evans made himself available just hours later. Is there a huge game of Celebrity Musical Chairs going on that we haven't been told about?

The big departure – Evans, not Farage – was sad but inevitable.

Chris himself had set the stakes by boldly tweeting about how brilliant the viewing figures were, so when it transpired towards the end of the series they weren't anything like what they'd been under Clarkson's tenure it was becoming obvious that he wasn't the right cheerleader for one of the Beeb's biggest earners. But that doesn't mean you've wasted six hours you could've spent cleaning your car's hubcaps.

The new series definitely had its laugh-out-loud moments and beautifully shot automotive adventures – I'll point you in the direction of Rory Reid's Focus RS test, the brilliantly baffling 'funometer' Chris Harris used in his BMW M2 piece and Matt LeBlanc's desert drifting in the Ariel Nomad. Even Chris had a standout moment in his McLaren F1 film, but I'm sorry to say all the show's truly naff bits happened on his watch.

Extending Star in a Reasonably Priced Car into an even longer rallycross segment with two 'slebs you hadn't heard of. The bizarre luxury car film featuring some chefs you hadn't heard of either and Eddie Jordan doing precious little other than sitting on a train. The painful jokes. Oh, and the shouting. Sorry, THE SHOUTING. THERE'S NO NEED TO SHOUT, CHRIS. YOU HAVE A MICROPHONE!

Yet peel past the chummy celebrity appearances and there are the bare bones of a brilliant car show that deserves to power on. Matt LeBlanc, Chris Harris and Rory Reid are my bets for making it what *Top Gear* ought to be - a show that's successful because it's a proper car show, rather than some car films stitched together with shouting and big names who aren't.

Either that or the BBC is secretly readying Nigel Farage as *Top Gear's* new anchorman. He is newly unemployed, after all!

Jeep's new versions of off-roader

JEEP is bringing out two new versions of its luxurious Grand Cherokee off-roader.

It's only bringing 30 of the SRT Night models, which has a 468bhp 6.4-litre V8 and a £69,865 pricetag, to the UK.

Rather more sensible is the 75th Anniversary model, which has a 3.0-litre V6 and will set you back £50,550.

Go to www.jeep.co.uk to find out more.

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2012	(61)	MINI ONE, with pepper pack, in spiced orange, with A/C, e/pack, alloys, CD etc, only 18,000 miles	£7,995
2012	(12)	FIAT 500 POP 1.2, in red with PAS, e/pack, ABS, CD etc, only 32,000 miles	£4,995
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56 SAAB 9-3 VECTOR 1.9 DIESEL 6SPD, met blue, half leather, PAS E/W, central locking, alloys £2,395
06 RENAULT LAGUNA ESTATE 2.0 PETROL AUTO, met silver, PAS, E/W,central locking A/C alloys ABS £2,195
56 FORD KA 1.3 ZETEC CLIMATE, red, PAS, E/W, central locking, CD,alloys, service history, lady owned, low insurance £1,395
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• Air Con
• CD Player
• FSH

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63 Fiat Punto Evo 5 Dr

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• Alloys
• CD Player
• Air Con

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11 Mini First

• FSH
• CD Player
• Ideal 1st Car

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• 48000 Miles
• Air Con
• CD Player

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• Priv Glass
• Air Con
• CD Player

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No Deposit

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09 Nissan Qashqai 1.5 Dci

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• Air Con

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62 Peugeot 308 1.6 Hdi Sportium 5 Dr

• 22000 Miles
• Alloys
• FSH
• CD Player

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12 Vauxhall Astra 1.7 Cdti Sri 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• CD Player
• Alloys

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12 Ford C Max 1.6 Tdci Zetec

• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player
• Priv Glass

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62 Ford Mondeo 1.6 TDCi Estate

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• FSH
• Air Con
• New Alloys

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13 Peugeot 3008 1.6 Hdi Auto

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• FSH
• 34000 Miles
• Alloys

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13 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 Cdti Se Auto

• Estate
• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys

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60 Nissan Qashqai 2.0 Dci 7 Seater

• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

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• FSH
• Alloys
• CD Player

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59 Bmw 320 D Se 4 Dr

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• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

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61 BMW 318 DE SE Estate

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• CD Player

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No Deposit

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08 Jaguar Xf 2.7 D Auto

• Black Leather
• Alloys
• Air Con
• Be Quick!

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No Deposit

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61 Bmw 116 Diesel Se 5 Dr

• FSH
• Alloys
• Rear Tints
• CD Player

£52 A WEEK

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12 Nissan Juke 1.5 Dci Acenta Sport

• 19000 Miles
• Priv Glass
• Alloys
• CD Player

£52 A WEEK

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60 Mercedes C220 Cdi Elegance Estate

• Automatic
• Alloys
• CD Player
• Leather

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• FSH
• 1 Owner
• Alloys
• CD Player

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13 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 Cdti Auto

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 1/2 Leather
• Air Con

NO DEPOSIT

No Deposit

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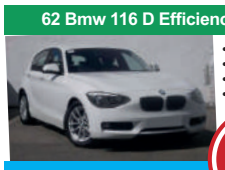
62 Bmw 116 D Efficiency 5 Dr



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• Alloys
• Priv Glass

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• 55000 Miles
• 1 Owner
• 1/2 Leather
• Alloys

NO DEPOSIT

New In

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12 Bmw 318 D Luxury 4 Dr

• 1 Owner
• Leather
• FSH
• New Shape

NO DEPOSIT

New In

Only £13,995

13 Ford S Max 2.0 Tdci Titanium

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• Alloys
• Rear Priv

NO DEPOSIT

New In

Only £13,995

11 Mercedes C250 Cdi Amg Sport 4 Dr

• Automatic
• 59000 Miles
• FSH
• Sat Nav

NO DEPOSIT

New In

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13 VW Passat CC 2.0 Tdi GT

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• FSH
• Leather
• Sat Nav

NO DEPOSIT

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• Rear Entertainment.
• Leather

NO DEPOSIT

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• 51000 Miles
• FSH
• Sat Nav
• Leather

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• 51000 Miles
• Sat Nav
• Privacy Glass
• Media Pack

NO DEPOSIT

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• Leather
• Sat Nav
• 1 Owner

NO DEPOSIT

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• Priv Glass
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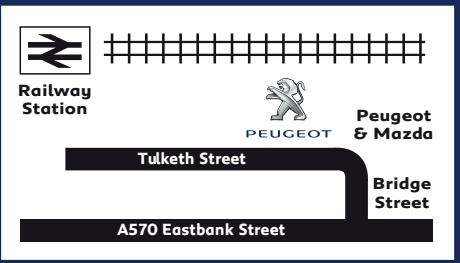

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Amount Financed	£7,952.55	Optional Final Payment (GFV)	£3,381.00
		Total Amount Payable	£9,619.06
		Annual Mileage	5000
		APR	6.9%

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£149 DEPOSIT **£149 PER MONTH**

Cash Price	£11,434.30	45 Monthly Payments	£149.98
Deposit	£149	Final Monthly Payment	£298.98
Amount Financed	£9,885.30	Interest	£1,096.76
Initial Monthly Payment	£298.98	Optional Final Payment (GFV)	£3,933.00
		Total Amount Payable	£12,829.06
		Annual Mileage	5000
		APR Representative	5.1%

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£169 DEPOSIT **£169 PER MONTH**

Cash Price	£13,151.64	45 Monthly Payments	£169.98
Deposit	£169	Final Monthly Payment	£318.98
Amount Financed	£11,482.64	Interest	£1,290.42
Initial Monthly Payment	£318.98	Optional Final Payment (GFV)	£4,784.00
		Total Amount Payable	£14,740.06
		Annual Mileage	5000
		APR	4.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Adam 1.2i Energised

£169 DEPOSIT **£169 PER MONTH**

Cash Price	£13,056.68	47 Monthly Payments	£169.98
Deposit	£169	Interest	£1,240.38
Amount Financed	£11,187.68	Optional Final Payment (GFV)	£4,439.00
		Total Amount Payable	£14,297.06
		Annual Mileage	5000
		APR	4.0%

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£199 DEPOSIT **£199 PER MONTH**

Cash Price	£16,418.76	47 Monthly Payments	£199.98
Deposit	£199	Interest	£1,469.30
Amount Financed	£13,219.76	Optional Final Payment (GFV)	£5,290.00
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		Annual Mileage	5000
		APR	4.0%

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£229 DEPOSIT **£229 PER MONTH**

Cash Price	£16,600.00	47 Monthly Payments	£229.11
Deposit	£229	Interest	£1,781.17
Amount Financed	£15,721.00	Optional Final Payment (GFV)	£6,734.00
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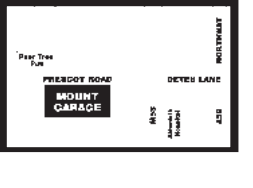

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Skem set to celebrate famous Wembley victory

SKELMERSDALE United are set to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the club's historic Wembley occasion when they played in the FA Amateur Cup Final.

Saturday, July 30 is a national day to remember for any English football supporter.

It will also be a day to bring back the memories for any football follower aged from their mid-50s onward who lives or did in West Lancashire in the 1960's.

Nationally it is the day in 1966 when a certain Geoffrey Hurst hit a hat-trick at Wembley to send the country into a mass celebration when England picked up the World Cup.

It is a sure thing that the 50th anniversary of that great day will be well represented in the English media.

By sheer coincidence, it is also the day Skelmersdale United have chosen to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of their great Wembley occasion.

Skelmersdale's Wembley meeting with former Isthmian League side Enfield in the 1967 FA Amateur Cup Final was actually played on Saturday, May 22 1967 with a replay at Manchester City's Maine Road on Saturday, April 29 and stories abound about how 'the whole town' went down to London for the day.

They played in front of 75,000 fans at Wembley in a match which ended 0-0. It went to a replay at Maine Road in Manchester when Skelmersdale lost 3-0.

The game itself is being relived as Enfield Town make the trip up from North London.

Skelmersdale will make the return trip during the 2017/18 pre-season and many of the Skelmersdale players who walked out at Wembley will be at Stormy Corner on the day.

Skelmersdale United are offering local businesses the opportunity to get on board and meet the heroes of 1967, by offering a multitude of sponsorships, whether it be a hospitality package or just a programme advert so that your company name can go down in history for the next 50 years.

To find out more information about the anniversary, call 01695 575958.

Baybutt ton sets up Ormskirk win

Bowlers complete the job dismissing Birkenhead for 96

THE Liverpool & District Cricket Competition reached the halfway stage last Saturday, with the top two divisions still tightly packed while Skelmersdale are 62 points clear in the second, *writes Glenn Wallworth*.

In the Premier Division yhird placed Ormskirk had a 123 run home win against bottom placed Birkenhead Park.

They were indebted to a century from Andy Baybutt (119 inc 14x4 & 2x6) and 41 from Matty Glayzer as they were dismissed for 219, with Ravinda Pallyaguruge taking 4-75.

In reply, 4-16 from Lancashire's Gavin Griffiths and 3-24 from Josh Bohannon helped bowl out the visitors for 96.

Second placed Northern had a 26 run win at reigning champions New Brighton.

Davy Smith continued his recent fine form with 60, skipper James Cole hit 46 and Stephen Lucas 35 as the visitors were bowled out for 205 with Andrew Clarke taking 6-77.

In reply, 4-13 from Liam Grey and 3-64 from Warren 3-18 and Shaun O'Neill 3-45 took the wickets to fall.

Ninth placed Hightown St Mary's were beaten by 138 runs at home against Liverpool, the visitors were asked to bat first and duly racked up 250-6 declared, thanks to runs from Chris Tonge (92), skipper Sam Holiday (58*) and Rob Simmons (54), whilst Paul Jones took 3-66 with the ball. In reply, Sean Hogan took 6-41 as the hosts were dismissed for 112, with Matty White top scoring with 32.

Ninth placed Formby were beaten by seven wickets at home against Wallasey.

Electing to bat first Formby were bowled out for 163, with Tym Crawford top scoring with 47, whilst Matty Hughes took 4-33 with the ball.

In reply, Greg Beaver carried his bat with an unbeaten 96 and Alex Eagles was also unbeaten on 32 as Wallasey wrapped up victory on 166-3.

This weekend's local LDCC fixtures: Birkenhead Park v Bootle, Northern v Colwyn Bay, Rainhill v Formby, Wallasey v Ormskirk.

Burscough extend lead in Division One as they easily see off bottom team Maghull

BURSCOUGH extended their lead at the top of the First Division to 17 points with a 79 run win at bottom placed Maghull.

After being put into bat Burscough declared on 210-6, with Ryan Hughes (64) and Chris Andrews (38) in the runs.

In reply, 4-27 from Rob Glaysher, 3-27 from Andrews and 3-48 from Navdeep Aujla helped dismiss the hosts for 131, with Jack Wrigglesworth top scoring with 55.

Ainsdale climbed up to third place with a 95 run home win against Prestatyn. Asked to bat first Ainsdale declared on 192-9, with Darren Tyms top scoring with 42, whilst Danny Williams 3-24 and Kieron New 3-79 took the bowling honours

In reply, Mal Swift 3-29 and Martyn Farrell 3-8 helped dismantle the visitors for 96, with Danny Williams (43) scoring the bulk of them.

Southport & Birkdale moved up to fifth place with a five wicket win at Newton le Willows.

The hosts were asked to bat and duly rolled over for 76 with Andy Warhurst taking 4-43. In reply, S&B also found batting tough but 35 from Adam Phillips and an unbeaten 11 from Dean Skelton saw them reach 77-5 to wrap up victory.

Fleetwood Hesketh dropped down to sixth place after a battling draw at Sefton Park.

The hosts chose to bat and were eventually bowled out in the 57th over for 147 with Jameel Stuart (72) scoring almost half of them, whilst Tommy Wareing took 5-52 and Dylan Norbury took 3-22 on debut.

In reply, Robbie Houghton took 5-22 as Fleetwood slipped to 61-9 with six players dismissed for ducks.

Opener Connor Allison and last man Aaron Halsall then shared a defiant last wicket stand of 8 to frustrate to hosts as Fleetwood closed on 69-9, with Allison digging in with an unbeaten on 26 from 158 deliveries and Halsall unbeaten on 3 off 39.

This weekend's local LDCC First Division fixtures: Burscough v Newton le Willows, Fleetwood Hesketh v Northop Hall, Highfield v Maghull, Orrell Red Triangle v S& B, Sefton Park v Ainsdale.

Skelmersdale make light work of Wavertree to pull further clear at top of Division Two

In the Second Division, Skelmersdale beat Wavertree by seven wickets after dismissing them for 68.

Ninth placed Southport Trinity were beaten by four wickets at Alder.

Trinity were put in to bat and soon dismissed for 80 with skipper Bobby Eyes top scoring with 28, as the rest had no real answer to Nazim Mohammed 5-17 and Abdur Rehman 3-21.

In reply Alder struggled their way to 81-6 to wrap up victory, with Ken Highdale unbeaten on 29, whilst Mark

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Pupils on track for School Games

THOUSANDS of pupils are set to swap the classroom for the running track and compete in the Merseyside School Games Summer Festival 2016.

It will see youngsters from across Sefton, Liverpool and West Lancashire taking part in the annual event, held at Wavertree Sports Park on Friday, July 8.

The School Games programme is designed to motivate and inspire young people across Merseyside to take part in more competitive school sport.

David Sweeney, Chair of Merseyside School Games Operational Group, said: "Merseyside has a great sporting heritage and the Merseyside School Games represents an opportunity to discover the world-class sporting stars of the future."

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